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JOHN BULL

Vol. XIV. No. 355. SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 1913. ONE PENNY

[Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.]

For meaning of this No. see Page ii. of Cover.

The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

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OUR NEW OFFER:

£7 A WEEK FOR LIFE

£750 CASH

£400 CASH

£100 LADIES' PRIZE

TURN TO PAGE 427 FOR FULL PARTICULARS.

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THE BEDROOM FURNITURE comprises 28 Complete Bedrooms.

5 Oak Bedroom Suites with full Chest of Drawers to Dressing Chest, £4 10s. 10 Oak Bedsteads at 14s. 6d. 3 Large Size Walnut Bedroom Suites, £6 15s. 3 Large Size Bedsteads with Sanitary Woven Wire Spring Overlay, Bolster and 2 Pillows, £2 12s. 6d. complete; 4 Handsome Sheraton Design Bedroom Suites, £7 15s. Pair of Twin Bedsteads to Match, 63s.; Large Double Oval Door Bedroom Suite, Sheraton Design, £15 15s.; Reflex Mirrors to Dressing-table. Full-size Bedstead to match, £2 15s.; a very fine Gent's Wardrobe, £6 15s. Handsome Walnut Dressing Chest and Washstand, £4 10s. Handsome 6 ft. Louis XV. Bedroom Suite, most exquisite Design, £28; Old Dutch Wardrobe, no reasonable offer refused. 7 ft. Mahogany Wardrobe, fitted two-thirds hanging, one-third drawers and trays, 12 gns.; 3 Large-size Oak Bedroom Suites, £8 15s. Several Chests of Drawers, 18s. 6d., 6 ft. Inlaid Sheraton design Bedroom Suite, an absolute bargain, 25 gns.; 3 Exquisite Design Inlaid Bedroom Suites, with shaving mirror to washstand, £11; 5 White Enamel Bedroom Suites, £6 10s.: Bedstead to match, 30s.

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Chesterneld, 2 Very Comfortable Lounge Easy Chairs and 4 Solid Mahogany Occasional Chairsall covered in fine art Tapestry, £11 11s., worth double; Louis XV. Design Cabinet, £2 15s.; Another, similar design, £4 15s.; 3 Chesterfield, with adjustable ends, £3 15s., 10 Lounge Easy Chairs, 17s. 6d.: Settee, 2 Tub Easy Chairs, 4 Occasional Chairs, £6 6s. Upright Piano by Gustav Richter, £18 18s.; Another by Collard and Collard, £16 10s. A very fine selection of Chesterfields and Easy Chairs always in Stock. Also bed and Table Linen. 50 Carpets from 7s. 6d. Turkey Carpets, all sizes, for £4.

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To each of the holders of copies of JOHN BULL *of specified date*, bearing any of such numbers, we will, upon production within seven days of publication (a reasonable extension will be allowed to foreign and Colonial claimants) of a sufficient portion of the cover to identify the date and number, pay the sum of TWO GUINEAS in return for his using his best endeavour for one week to increase our circulation. Before the money is paid we require a full report of all the work done.

The following claims have been received for our issues of February 15th, 22nd and March 1st.

FRANCIS TOWSE, Marton Lodge, Sewerby, Bridlington. Feb. 22nd. No. 623571.

T. ANTHONY, 8, The Promenade, Golder's Green. Feb. 22nd. No. 487143.

M. E. FLYNN, R.G.A. Band, Dover. Feb. 22nd. No. 256498.

JAMES MORE, Conservative Club, New Springs, Wigan. March 1st. No. 469825.

T. L. JONES, 15, Devon Place, Newport, Mon. March 1st. No. [illegible]6.

C. BRADFORD, 140, Oxford St., Pontycymmer. Feb. 15th. No. [illegible]7.

J. STAIG, Junr., 6, Newlands St., Liverpool. Mar. 1st. No. [illegible]29.

HAROLD BRIGGS, 2, Stonepale, Besses O'th Barn, Whitefield, near Manchester. March 1st. No. 822686.

T. A. HARGREAVES, 32, Chorlton Road, Brooks's Bar, Manchester, S.W. February 22nd. No. 900132.

M. DICKMAN, 58, Hamilton Place, Edinburgh. Feb. 22nd. No. 85061.

J. HEAP, 6, Back Lane, Castle St., Kendal. Feb. 22nd. No. 361490.

GEO GREEN, 6, Beaucort Mansions, Brixton. Feb. 22nd. No. 637114.

A. E. ELLIS, 185, Woolbridge Rd., Ipswich. Feb. 22nd. No. 200894.

A. S. MELDRUM, 24, North Walls, Winchester. Feb. 22nd. No. 575810.

C. TOMLINS, 33, Stafford Rd., Walthamstow. March 1st. No. 521123.

A. G. BURR, 2, Shaftesbury Ave., Southend. Feb. 15th. No. 265586.

E. CARR, 52, Stamford St., Stalybridge. March 1st. No. 317942.

W. H. WHINCUP, Hill Farm, High Wycombe. March 1st. No. 783853

The following are the fifty numbers for our issue of March 15th:—

984	164231	375281	550950	859368
8362	195337	393974	594661	875565
17298	206450	401896	609912	920514
24568	238672	412312	631528	932244
27921	264709	419501	682073	984346
36721	287341	433104	701932	993022
74230	300019	468123	734688	A 53
83109	322424	487241	775005	A 3055
120234	340998	504749	822358	A 26042
152403	368436	520336	846820	A 62033

The A prefixed to the drawn numbers indicate it is plus a million.

THE FIFTY NUMBERS IN RESPECT OF THIS WEEK WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN OUR NEXT ISSUE (PUBLISHED MARCH 26TH.)

SEE PAGE 427.

FOOTBALL COMPETITION. NO. 4.

SEE PAGE 427.

"JOHN BULL" Entrance Form.

Matches Played Saturday, April 12th.

Cross out—in ink—what you think will be the losing club. For a draw do not cross out either club.

Bolton W.	v. Aston Villa
Bradford City	v. Blackburn R.
Chelsea	v. Tottenham H.
Liverpool	v. Sunderland
Manchester C.	v. Sheffield Wednesday
Oldham	v. Middlesbro'
Sheffield Un.	v. Manchester Un.
Woolwich A.	v. Derby County
W. Bromwich	v. Everton
Bristol City	v. Leeds City
Clapton O.	v. Fulham
Glossop	v. Barnsley
Hull City	v. Bradford
Stockport C.	v. Blackpool
Merthyr	v. Northampton
Watford	v. Q. P. Rangers
Brighton	v. Millwall
Exeter	v. Swindon
Southampton	v. Reading
Portsmouth	v. Stoke

I enter JOHN BULL Football Competition in accordance with the rules announced on this page and agree to accept the published decision as final and legally binding.

Signed.....

Address.....

.....

Entrance Forms must be cut, not torn out.

RULES

WHICH SHOULD BE READ CAREFULLY.

1. On the Entrance Form attached cross out in ink, by running a pen through the names, the teams you think will lose. If you predict a DRAW do not cross out either team.

2. Having done this, write in ink (typewriting or pencilling will not do) your name and address in the space provided, cut out the Entrance Form, and address it to "JOHN BULL," 25, Floral Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C., mark envelope, in top left-hand corner, Football Competition No. 4, so as to reach us not later than first post Friday, April 11th, but please send early to facilitate the work of examination.

3. The First Prize of £7 a week for Life will be awarded to the competitor whose Entry Form contains the correct results, as published in the "Sporting Life," of all the matches given, played to a finish on April 12th. In the event of no coupon received giving the whole of the correct results, a cash prize of £750 will be awarded to the competitor whose coupon shows the most correct results short of the full number. In addition, the sum of £400 in cash will be paid to the sender of the entrance form containing the next highest number of correct forecasts. £100 in cash will also be awarded to the lady whose coupon gives most correct forecasts than that of any other lady competitor. Thus, if the Pension Prize of £7 a week for life be not won, we shall still award the £750, the £400 and the £100—so that the huge sum of £1,250 must be won.

4. No responsibility will be accepted by the Editor for the loss or non-delivery of any effort, and no correspondence will be entered into, neither will interviews be granted. But the utmost care will be taken of all coupons received. Individual competitors may send in as many entries as they wish, and any number of entries may be enclosed in the same envelope. Friends may send their entries together in one envelope.

5. The Editor's published decision on all matters relating to this competition is final and legally binding, and competitors may enter only on this understanding.

6. Any effort on which any alteration of any description has been made will be disqualified. Entrance Forms must be cut, not torn out.

7. In the event of a tie or ties in this competition the Pension Prize of £7 a week for Life, the Second Prize of £750 cash, as well as the £400 cash prize, and the special £100 prize for ladies only, will be equally divided.

8. No coupon bearing a Scottish address can be accepted.

THE CLOSING DATE IS FRIDAY, APRIL 11th.

JOHN BULL.

Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant:
Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

Vol. XIV. No. 355. Week ending Saturday, March 22nd, 1913. One Penny.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Letters must be addressed to the Editor or the Publisher, according to whether they relate to Editorial or Publishing matters. All **FINANCIAL, INSURANCE** *and* **SPORTING** *enquiries should be addressed to the* **CITY OFFICES, 52, NEW BROAD STREET, E.C.** *All other communications should be addressed to* **93, LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.**

All remittances, applications for advertising space, subscriptions, orders, etc., should be addressed to Odhams Limited, 93 and 94, Long Acre, London, W.C.

The John Bull League.

PORTSMOUTH AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

THE PRESIDENT,

HORATIO BOTTOMLEY,

WILL ADDRESS A GREAT PUBLIC MEETING

AT THE TOWN HALL, PORTSMOUTH, ON FRIDAY, 28th MARCH, 1913.

Doors open at 7 p.m. ORGAN RECITAL AND VOCAL ENTERTAINMENT at 7.15 p.m. **ADMISSION** (by ticket) **FREE.** Reserved Seats, ONE SHILLING. Tickets may be obtained from Messrs. E. ROOMS, 405, Commercial Road; M. BURGHARD, The Admiralty Tavern, Landport; M. MANSBRIDGE, 330, Fratton Road; P. GORDON, The New Inn, Drayton Cosham; J. J. McFARLANE, "Allendale," St. Pyren's Avenue, Capuer; CAPTAIN MALPAS, 49, Kimberley Road, Southsea; CAPTAIN BELL, 29, Campbell Road, Southsea; or from the GENERAL SECRETARY, Central Hotel, Commercial Road, Portsmouth.

THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

Exit Sir Percy Scott.

Our recent exposure of the treachery of Sir Percy Scott towards his senior officer, Lord Charles Beresford, when both were in active command, has rapidly borne fruit. *Sir Percy is no longer a member of the King's Navy.* We have no desire to gloat over the man's downfall. In revealing him in his true colours, we are satisfied that we rendered a good service to the public. As we have before observed, there is no room in these days for traitors and sneaks in the British Navy. However, this much be-puffed and overrated admiral has now retired into private life—whither we have neither the right, nor the desire, to follow him.

Secret History.

On the 18th January last, news reached the French Government that a very secret note had been delivered by Germany to Italy, asking whether she would be ready to take steps next October to put an end to the intolerable anxiety now obsessing Europe. By the 15th February, the French Government obtained confirmation of this action. That is the explanation of the present panic, which is taking the shape of keeping conscripts beyond their time and substituting three years' service for two. Perhaps, then, this revelation will have the effect of retarding hostilities. At any rate, every prospective combatant is amply forearmed.

Land, Capital and Labour.

We seem to remember that when we were a bright boy, winning prizes for essays on Political Economy, we used to write glibly about Land, Capital and Labour as the source of all wealth. Since then we have learnt to add Enterprise and Brains—but that by the way. We notice, however, that on Mr. Snowden's amendment to the Address, whilst he pleaded for general "nationalisation" of all the means of production, Mr. Outhwaite argued that the land monopoly was the root of all industrial trouble, and that Mr. Chiozza-Money, who knows almost as much about statistics as we do of facts, said that land had little, if anything, to do with the matter. And as all three of these statesmen sit upon the same side of the House, and within a few feet of each other, we think we will leave them to settle the point between themselves.

Our Modern Neros.

What will the historian of the early years of the twentieth century have to say about us, when he reviews the political situation of to-day? On our East a mighty nation, looking at us and our Empire with envious eyes—seeking outlets for its ever-increasing population, and markets for its ever-expanding trade; on our West, a "sister" isle divided against itself and in a state of civil war; at home, seething industria discontent and threatened social revolution; and Parliament summoned to discuss—the care of the feeble-minded, the employment of children, and the teaching in our elementary schools! Talk about fiddling while Rome was burning! We are dancing as well!

The Passing of the Pope.

The Pope is much worse than the world has been allowed to know. The official bulletins mention influenza, but he has already had two strokes, and his little Court is very anxious about him. The news first leaked out when he was ordered electrical massage, which is not usually considered a specific for influenza. As a Sovereign Pontiff, Pius X. has not been an unqualified success: diplomatists ignore him and misunderstand him. But his simple character and childish generosity have endeared him to the poor and needy, who regard him as a saint and throng the churches to pray for his recovery.

Royalty and Ragtime.

What would our grandfathers have thought of the King being accompanied to the opening of Parliament by the Guards' band playing "rag-time" selections from the pages of *Reynolds's Newspaper?*

The "John Bull" Derby Sweep.

Once again we beg to say that money for shares in this sweepstake must *not* be sent to us. All communications must be addressed to Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Geneva, Switzerland.

Our New Football Prize Offer. All Records Broken!

"Thus far——"

We are heartily in accord with Mr. F. E. Smith in his desire that matters of naval policy should be withdrawn from the region of Party politics and placed upon the higher plane of national security and efficiency. "It is criminal," he says, "that such a subject should be made the shuttlecock of Party." Agreed, but why stop at naval policy? Does not this reflection apply with equal force to every other issue of national moment? To take two at random, does any sane man deny that the thorny problems of Education and Fiscal Reform would soon be smoothly and satisfactorily adjusted if only they could be removed from the heated atmosphere of partisan controversy? The truth is that the blighting miasma of Party strife has cast its corrupting influence upon every department of public administration, throttling the legislature and paralysing the Executive. The Party system to-day stands as a barrier to all true national progress. It must be utterly done away with if we are to retain our rightful place among the nations. And does the shrewd "F. E." see the inner significance of his plea? In a sentence, he admits that Party is a fraud.

Danger in the Dockyards.

There are rumours of coming trouble among the engineers employed in His Majesty's dockyards upon works of naval construction. It appears that the men have recently been called upon to put in a good deal of overtime, and that the pay for this extra work is not up to the standard which prevails outside. If the men have a legitimate grievance, as it appears they have, it must be removed without delay. No such paltry consideration as a trifling increase of pay should be allowed to stand in the way of the speedy completion of the work in hand. A stoppage in naval construction would be a disaster which will not bear contemplation. We look to the Admiralty to deal generously with the men's demands, and to remove the risk of such a calamity.

Unorthodox Petitioners.

As our readers are aware, we have been no friends of what is called the Militant Movement, but for the life of us we do not see that the Suffragettes did anything very terrible in endeavouring to hand their petition to the King on his way to open Parliament. It was, of course, a somewhat crude method of obtaining His Majesty's attention to their cause, but if they never do anything more desperate and irregular, we should not quarrel with them. We must not talk cant in this matter. No big political movement ever succeeded without some sort of unconventional methods—and the women know this. It is only, however, when they commence deliberately destroying the property of innocent people, many of whom may be in hearty sympathy with their cause, that we demand strong measures against them. We trust they will take the hint.

Lever's Folly.

We are rather at a loss to know why there should be so much speculation as to what Sir William Lever intends to do with Stafford House, which he recently bought for a fabulous sum. Scarcely a week passes without a paragraph upon the subject in one newspaper or another. First, we were assured that it was Sir William's intention to present it to Mr. Asquith, and now it is suggested that it will be the town house of the Prince of Wales. Personally, we don't care a rush what happens to it, but if Sir William is really anxious to get it off his hands, we can furnish him with a whole lot of suggestions. For instance, he might retain possession of it until such time as it can be used as a home of rest for Party leaders for whom a business people have no further use. It won't be long.

A Check to the Chancellor.

It is now announced that the report of Mr. Lloyd George's Land Inquiry will be ready at the end of May. We shall doubtless manage to rub along without it until then, and it is not likely that it will contain any very startling revelations, nor is it probable that much more will be heard of it after its first publication—if, in fact, it ever does see the light. The truth is that the rank and file of the Liberal Party are by no means eager for a further orgy of "Limehousing," while certain of the leaders have threatened to resign rather than put up with anything of the kind. All of which is rough on the Chancellor; but he is not the man to be baulked by the failure of a single design. Failing the land problem, there is still an Education Bill in prospect, and Mr. Lloyd George will doubtless see to it that the word "education" is not allowed to figure too largely in its discussion. He may still rely on the sturdy support of the Nonconformists, who seem to regard him as an angel in all but wings—and moustache.

Business is Business.

We constantly hear complaints of the congestion of business in Parliament, and yet it never seems to occur to Ministers that they might easily save weeks of valuable time by a few simple reforms in the procedure of the House of Commons. For instance, nearly a fortnight is frittered away at the outset of each Session in the so-called debate on the Address, which serves no earthly purpose except to furnish all sorts of bores with an opportunity for airing their views on every subject under the sun. Parliament should be allowed to get to business as soon as it assembles, and should strictly confine its attention to the business in hand. Gentlemen who wish to indulge in learned disquisitions upon fiscal policy or foreign affairs should be relegated to the smoke-room or the Terrace, the floor of the House being reserved for those who have something useful to say upon the business of the nation.

Admirable Crichton II.

Mr. Churchill is certainly one of the most wonderful men of the age. A few years ago he knew scarcely a word of any foreign language. He used to complain bitterly of the shortcomings of a public school education. Now we find him attending debates of the French Chamber, discoursing fluently with French admirals and statesmen, winning golden opinions by his happy turns of phrase. Few can acquire a foreign tongue fluently after they have grown up; if they do so, it is by devoting years to patient drudgery. Mr. Churchill has become a French scholar in intervals snatched from acquiring all the details of administration at the Colonial Office, the Home Office, the Board of Trade and the Admiralty. And French is probably the most puzzling lingo of any, except perhaps Hungarian and Chinese.

Mem. for McKenna.

Miss Annie Kenney is jubilant over the cheapness of militant tactics. "It costs about twopence," she says, "to do a militant thing, where it would cost £100 to work up a good meeting." This is exactly true as things are now, and the fact is doubtless of great weight with the inspirers of militant methods. But, if we had our way, it would cost a lot more than twopence to break a window.

"Mary Bull."

Are you taking her home with you? She is an ideal companion for the wife whilst you are having your forty winks on Sunday afternoon.

£7 a week for life! £1,250 in cash MUST BE WON.

As It Was in the Beginning.

Mr. Justice Sargant is evidently bent on sustaining the traditions of the Chancery Division. A case in his Court affords a striking illustration of the kind of mischief which is wrought by the law's delay. Miss Marie Corelli sought an injunction to restrain Mr. George Gray, "The Fighting Parson," from the further production of a popular music-hall sketch which, Miss Corelli alleges, is based upon the plan of one of her novels. It was asserted that the applicant had already stated her case by letter to a large number of music-hall managers, with the result that Mr. Gray could no longer secure bookings for his sketch, and that several of his existing contracts had been cancelled. Obviously, this was a case in which a summary disposal of the points in issue was imperatively demanded. Presumably, however, there was no precedent for speeding things up, and the new Judge is not the man to create one. He contented himself with ordering that particulars should be delivered in the ordinary way and a date for hearing applied for on the completion of the pleadings. Those who for their sins are familiar with the practice of the Chancery Court will know what this means. It may well be that Mr. Gray will be ruined before a date for hearing is fixed. Mr. Justice Sargant might at least have ordered Miss Corelli to suspend her correspondence with Mr. Gray's clients. But it would probably take fifty "fighting parsons" to induce his lordship to sacrifice an inch of his beloved red tape.

If You See It . . . .

Mr. John Redmond has issued a new appeal for funds for the purpose of Home Rule propaganda. This does not look as though the Irish leaders regarded "the victory as already won." Mr. Redmond has ever shown himself an astute observer of the trend of political events, and his present appeal is a clear indication that he contemplates the possibility of another big campaign in the English constituencies. Of course, the words "General Election" are not mentioned, but those of our readers who have followed our forecasts of coming events will have no difficulty in completing the picture for themselves.

Cluer and Counsel.

"I cannot hear you," said Judge Cluer to Counsel, who wished to speak on behalf of his client during a recent case at the Shoreditch County Court. This state of affairs did not arise from deafness on the part of the learned Judge, but from the fact that the barrister in question held only a "watching" brief, and, therefore, according to strict legal etiquette, had no *locus standi* as an advocate in the case. Our own view is that such stupid and vexatious restrictions are entirely out of place in a modern court. It is grossly unfair that the lay clients' interests should be sacrificed to such legal pedantries. And it is time that business methods and commonsense rules were made to govern the procedure of the Courts.

A Quick Change Artist.

To commence by explaining to English readers who may not know, that a bailie is a Scottish magistrate, Bailie Bell, of Airdrie, is to be congratulated on his success as a quick-change artist. Recently a man named Myles, an habitual offender, was brought up on a charge of wife assault and remitted by the Bailie for trial before Sheriff Lee. A few days later, when Sheriff Lee considered the case, Bailie Bell appeared for the defence, and got the man off. Mr. Myles is to be congratulated on his foresight in choosing Bailie Bell as his advocate.

"Easter Offerings."

Every Easter we receive a number of letters from readers protesting against the custom of begging by churchwardens for "offerings" to their vicars. This year the deluge of correspondence begins with a protest against an Easter gift for the Rev. Prebendary Webb-Peploe, who, according to the sarcastic epistolarian is "struggling to get an existence in the largest house in Onslow Gardens." By the same post the churchwardens of the reverend gentleman send us a circular announcing that it will be the Prebendary's golden wedding anniversary on April 11th, and that "contributions to a Golden Wedding Gift" may be sent to them. But why mark the circular "private and confidential"? Is it that the Churchwardens wish the congregation to do good by stealth and blush to find it fame, or that they wish presently to spring a surprise on the worthy vicar? After all, Easter and golden wedding gifts are free-will offerings, and we do not know that the fact of vicars being as rich as Crœsus or as poor as Lazarus has much to do with the propriety of church officers begging for them. It is pleasant sometimes to be able to recognise the good works of the rich, as it is to be able to relieve the necessities or embarrassments of the poor. And what many of the poor clergy would do without Easter gifts, goodness only knows.

Newcastle's Police.

In one of the local newspapers, a Mr. David Adams makes the serious allegation against the Newcastle police that they are manufacturing trumpery charges against juveniles as the result of a system of promotion by convictions. The fact that 2,047 Newcastle children have been reported for trivial offences in the course of last year goes far to justify the indictment. Apparently, the police would have very little to do if they didn't harry, and chase, and arrest little boys for obstructing the traffic, talking in a loud manner, being at large without their mothers, playing in the street, making a skating rink of the pavement, and bowling hoops when requested not so to do. The Watch Committee might give the Chief Constable a hint to shut one eye and one ear when the kiddies are about. He was a kiddie himself once; unless, in the phrase of a great Frenchman, "*Il n'est pas d'enfance.*"

Tips for Burglars.

We suppose we are laying ourselves open to the charge of aiding and abetting crime when we tender advice to the meek and mild burglar as to where he might apply his craftsmanship with least likelihood of being disturbed. Be that as it may, we advise Bill Sikes to keep away from the Woking district. A couple of weeks ago we gave the local police a shaking up, and we are credibly informed that they mean to have a conviction against some burglar very soon. Taunton is the happy hunting ground for the moment. As the pitch may be soon spoilt, the handy craftsman should get to work at once. The Chief Constable of Somerset is Acting Superintendent of the Taunton Police. He lives in the town, and it should be a suitable crib to crack seeing that during the past six months there have been twelve burglaries and not a single capture!

Join the League.

A witness in a recent action in the High Court declared that he was a "non-politician," and threw all the "literature" of both Parties into the copper-hole. Provided the documents are not of *too* inflammatory a nature, this is quite the best thing he can do. Meanwhile, if the gentleman will furnish us with his name and address, we will send him a prospectus of the John Bull League.

"Bullets" THE STRAIGHT Competition—WITH MOST PRIZES.

Scandal of a Workhouse.

Notwithstanding that the Sub-Committee of the South Shields Guardians have clearly not been anxious to rake the scandal at the workhouse deeper than necessary, appearances at least suggest that there have been astonishing opportunities for laxity of manners and morals on the part of some of the officers of the institution. In September last a single woman, admitted to the workhouse in the previous January, absconded, leaving an illegitimate child behind her. Prosecuted, she made certain allegations. Briefly, these allegations, repeated before the Sub-Committee, are that she was frequently assaulted or was the victim of attempted assaults by certain of the officers. As a result of their inquiry the Sub-Committee do not express disbelief in the woman's allegations. They content themselves with stating that as the alleged chief culprit has left without notice they cannot pursue the matter, that the charges against another officer cannot be proved for the same reason, and that as regards a certain junior officer and the woman there has been such "a laxity of manner" as to necessitate reprimand. What strikes us is that sufficient is reserved and sufficient admitted to suggest that the workhouse management has been as lax as the manner of the junior clerk.

A Pharisaic Parson.

Canon Horsley has been writing to the papers on the question of police court punishments, with particular reference to the imposition of fines. This is a fruitful subject, and one upon which we have more than once had something to say, but we are thoroughly disappointed in the attitude taken up by the reverend Canon. His whole case seems to be that a lot of poor people are fined when they ought to be sent to prison, and that in many cases they are not fined half enough. This is a strange position for a minister of religion to take up. In the course of an article in the *Daily Chronicle* he remarks, with reference to fines, "the offenders escape the personal punishment which, at any rate, they deserve." Who, pray, is Canon Horsley to grate of men's deserts? Perhaps he will furnish us with a record of his own sins of commission and omission, and let us award such sentence as we deem appropriate. We shall have regard to the reverend gentleman's neglected opportunities for usefulness and pay adequate attention to the helpful aids of his heredity and environment, as compared with those of the poor creatures whose deserts he presumes to appraise. He will be lucky if he escapes with a fine.

The Party Press.

From the *Pall Mall Gazette:* "The extraordinary incident by which a Radical member succeeded in suppressing Captain Tryon's Tariff Reform amendment last night, speaks eloquently of how Ministerialists regard the situation. The discreditable nature of the trick need not be enlarged upon." From the *Westminster Gazette:* "For the moment, the Opposition find a convenient refuge in Sir F. Low's motion. They were prevented, they said, from discussing Tariff Reform because the motion had a blocking effect. This story is a little too thin for general credence." There you are!

Curious Commas.

According to Reuter, the Dutch Prince Consort is undergoing a "cure." For unconscious sarcasm commend us to these cruelly inverted commas. Evidently Reuter, being a foreigner, does not know that we only use them as quotation marks. In this connection they are the equivalent of the word "alleged." And there has been a sad amount of gossip about Prince Henry's alleged cure. Some have even whispered the name of the person who administered it.

The Joys of Jurymen.

We have profound sympathy with the woes of jurymen-in-waiting, who are frequently compelled to waste hour upon hour of precious time in sitting idly in court until such time as they may be dismissed or called upon to replace the twelve men in the box. We have frequently known as many as fifty jurors summoned to attend in one court in one day, when by no conceivable possibility could the services of more than one-third of that number be required. The practice of needlessly summoning an altogether excessive number of jurymen is one which is utterly indefensible, and it only needs an effective and sustained protest to secure its abolition. The authorities should summon, say, twenty men at the most and immediately dismiss those who are not required; instead of which, it usually happens that the unfortunate individuals who have been unnecessarily brought to court are kept about until late in the afternoon and then summarily dismissed, without thanks or courtesy, to return to their own neglected businesses. In referring to a recent cartoon on this subject, Mr. Justice Darling declared that attacks on the procedure of the courts were "very annoying to the officials." If this is true, we are glad to hear it, but we thought the gentlemen in question were pachydermatous. It is good to know that they are not quite impervious to criticism.

Penalties for Prying into the Future.

Ten weeks seems a monstrous sentence for a fortune-teller, particularly since fortune-telling is not a criminal offence. It is true the charge was one of "obtaining money by *pretending* to tell fortunes," but no evidence was called to prove pretence. No doubt many fortune-tellers are humbugs, but so are many doctors, and, after all, the occult sciences have commanded belief for thousands of years, and that not among fools exclusively. Besides, no one is compelled to consult a fortune-teller. Many do so out of fun or harmless curiosity. Is tipping to be allowed only on horse-races?

Liars, D——d Liars, and Experts.

An expert on aeroplanes has been telling a reporter that the new rules cannot be enforced. "Just think," he mumbled, "how very difficult it will be to hit an aeroplane. The machine is travelling at sixty or seventy miles an hour; the range is altering every second; so is the direction." Therefore no one ever did or could shoot a pheasant unless it were sitting.

Nietzsche on Party.

It is easy, ridiculously easy, to set up a model for the choice of a legislative body. First of all the honest and reliable men of the nation, who at the same time are masters and experts in some one branch, have to become prominent by mutual scenting-out and recognition. From these, by a narrow process of selection, the learned and expert of the first rank in each individual branch must again be chosen, also by mutual recognition and guarantee. If the legislative body be composed of these, it will finally be necessary, in each individual case, that only the voices and judgments of the most specialised experts should decide; the honesty of all the rest should have become so great that it is simply a matter of decency to leave the voting also in the hands of these men. The result would be that the law, in the strictest sense, would emanate from the intelligence of the most intelligent. As things now are, voting is done by parties, and at every division there must be hundreds of uneasy consciences among the ill-taught, the incapable of judgment, among those who merely repeat, imitate, and go with the tide. —"Human, All-Too-Human," Vol. II., Part I., clef 318.

Our amazing prize offer—£7 a week for life and £1,250 cash! See page 427.

A Cruel Hoax.

A horrible rumour recently gained extensive credence. It was alleged that Mr. Bonar Law had been seen dining with Mr. John Redmond at a fashionable hotel on the Riviera. The very idea of friendly parley between Ulster's trusted friend and the leader of the Molly Maguires was much too shocking to contemplate, and all true Party men will learn with relief that the report proves to have been without foundation. The man who organised the nerve-shattering story was guilty of an outrage upon the amenities of public life—unless he meant it for a joke. Some people have a weird sense of humour!

The Bar and the Public.

Several correspondents have called our attention to the fact that in the recent trial of Miss Olive Wharry, at the Central Criminal Court, in connection with the destruction of the Tea Pavilion, Kew Gardens, she was defended not only by a King's Counsel, but also by Mr. R. D. Muir, the Senior Counsel to the Treasury—despite which remarkable combination she was sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment. Surely, King's and Treasury Counsel should not have appeared for the defence in such a case!

A Suggestion.

If the Government are not committed to their new Bill for dealing with hunger strikers in gaol, we take leave to suggest its withdrawal and the substitution of one providing for the banishment of these fearful feminines to the Scilly Isles.

The Decay of Parliament.

Does anybody know that Parliament has reassembled? We notice that most of the popular papers ignore its proceedings—and that even where such is not the case, scarcely anybody reads them. The Party game is up!

The Week's Chestnut.

What is the difference between a Diplomat and a lady?—If a Diplomat says "Yes," he means "Perhaps"; if he says "Perhaps," he means "No"; if he says "No," he is no Diplomat! If a lady says "No," she means "Perhaps"; if she says "Perhaps," she means "Yes": if she says "Yes"—she is no lady!

RHYMES OF THE TIMES.

THE FOUR HUNDRED.

Bullets to right of me,
Bullets to left of me,
Thousands have blundered;
There is no reason why
I should not have a try—
For the four hundred.

Mother to right of me,
Father to left of me,
Brother in front of me,
Till the cat wondered:
Oh, how those JOHN BULLS *sell!—*
Boldly they wrote and well
Into the morning hours,
How long they couldn't tell—
For the four hundred.

Spring cleaning is delayed,
Mother's new dress not made;
All the town wondered!
Big sums are often paid,
Oh, easily 'tis made,
JOHN BULL'S *four hundred.*

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

["*Taking the Biscuit*" *has become a classic phrase, expressive of a satirical reward or recognition. In this column we present, in all good humour, the token to such of our contemporaries and others as may have distinguished themselves by some unconventional utterance or act.*]

*For publishing two "6.30" editions, stating respectively that "*CAMBRIDGE *won" and "*OXFORD *won" the Universities' Boatrace,*

THE STAR
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating, according to the "Daily Telegraph" report of a recent case, that: "Some people are LIKE A CAMEL—*they* CAN *get through the eye of a needle,"*
MR. FORDHAM (the West London Police Court Magistrate)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For advertising in the "Western Guardian" (Totnes): "Wanted, a Youngster that can PLOUGH INDOORS *or out,"*
"WAKEHAM" (Ley, Diptford)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For publishing a story of one of the characters in which it is stated that: "She only remembered the horrified looks of the two women at the EPITAPHS *Alice hurled at them—the unfounded charges she levelled at their heads."*
THE GIRLS' FRIEND
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in its report of the recent fire at Swavesey that: "The flames had eaten a pathway through the entire village—their erratic course from side to side of the street was marked by blackened ruins in dramatic contiguity with bright BRICK-AND-TILED *houses which were immune . . . their safety lay in their* SLATES,"
THE PETERBOROUGH ADVERTISER
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For advertising in "Cycling": "Wanted, gent's THREE-SPEED *cycle* TYRES,"
"LANE" (20, Romford Road, Stratford, Essex)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that: "Five suffragettes were arrested at Whitehall while attempting to force a passage through the CROWN *in order to present a petition to the King,"*
THE EVENING DISPATCH (Edinburgh)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For advertising in the "Evening News": "Lost on 11th a fox terrier dog, ALL WHITE, *with* LIVER *and* BLACK HEAD,"
MISS LALLA SELBINI
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that the International Laundry and Sanitary Exhibition is open from "10 a.m. to 9 p.m. each WEEK-DAY *(except, of course,* SUNDAY),"
THE LAUNDRY NEWS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For advertising in the "Dungarvan Observer": "A constant supply of best beef and mutton also Lamb and Veal WHEN IN SEASON *kept* ALL THE YEAR ROUND,"
MESSRS. T. FLYNN AND SON
(Square, Dungarvan)
TAKE THE BISCUIT.

HALF-A-CROWN FOR EVERY "BISCUIT" PUBLISHED

*We give 2s. 6d. to the sender of every "Biscuit" published. Should the same item be forwarded by several competitors, preference will be given to the one whose letter is first opened. In forwarding newspaper cuttings, sufficient must be sent to identify the name of the paper and date of issue. Envelopes must be marked "*BISCUIT" *and addressed to "The Biscuit Editor."*

"Bullets" THE STRAIGHT Competition—WITH MOST PRIZES.

TWO YEARS FOR AN INNOCENT MAN.

ANOTHER EDALJI CASE—THE "SPOTTER" MUST BE SPOTTED.

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A Grave Miscarriage of Justice.

The jury at the Assizes were satisfied that these filthy productions were the work of Brownhill. We are by no means sure of this. From evidence in our possession we have good reason to believe that there has been a grave miscarriage of justice, and that Brownhill is now suffering for the crime of some miscreant or maniac who is still at large and still at his devilish work.

With reference to the trial of Brownhill—at the Warwick Assizes, before Mr. Justice Scrutton and a jury—we would emphasise these points:—

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The Court of Appeal Misled.

Now we come to the Court of Criminal Appeal. There was no proper consideration by this tribunal. Justices Ridley, Phillimore and Bankes refused leave to appeal, not on their own initiative, but because of a report received from Mr. Justice Scrutton. It was urged on behalf of the prisoner that the prosecution had failed to show any motive which could have induced Brownhill to make these scurrilous attacks on Alderman Evans and his family. In reply, prisoner's counsel was assured that Mr. Justice Scrutton had found that there were two adequate motives.

They were:—

(1) That Brownhill wanted to marry Evans's daughter and that Evans objected to the match.

(2) That Brownhill had given evidence for Evans at a previous trial when two young men were charged with perpetrating these same "Spotter" libels, and that Evans had failed to remunerate sufficiently him for his trouble.

With regard to these trumpery findings, it is sufficient to say that neither of them was proved at the trial; nor, apparently, did Mr. Justice Scrutton think either of them of sufficient importance to mention to the jury; indeed, both Mr. Evans and his daughter denied in their evidence that they believed anything of the kind. Nevertheless, they were accepted by the Court of Criminal Appeal, and Brownhill was denied an opportunity of clearing himself before that tribunal. Mr. Justice Scrutton's sentence of two years' imprisonment was confirmed, and Brownhill, still protesting his innocence, was left in Warwick Gaol a broken and ruined man.

"The Spotter" Still Active.

Now for the events which have transpired since Brownhill was committed to gaol. The anonymous "Spotter" is still as active as ever. Letters and postcards continue to rain in upon all sorts of people connected with the trial. The printed characters accord in the minutest features with those on the documents which convicted Brownhill. The communications correspond in sentiment, phraseology and style. Expert testimony and common-sense alike confirm the conviction that the creature who showered his foul insults upon Mr. Evans, his wife and family is not the unhappy Brownhill, who languishes in Warwick Gaol, but the man who recently wrote to Mr. Harold Kimpton, the prisoner's solicitor, at Birmingham, in the following terms:

Dear Harold, . . I've written to the Home Secretary and Brownhill's family.

The letter to Mr. Kimpton concludes:—

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Here follows, in an almost perfect facsimile of the prisoner's handwriting:—

Do not waste any more time, but get to work.

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"The Spotter" still pursues his madly mysterious designs. As recently as January 29th of this year another printed note was received by the prisoner's brother, from which the following is an extract:—

I never dreamt Evans would attack your brother or I should have been more careful. I am writing to Evans to-night.

"The Spotter."

Important Evidence Ignored.

There is one more startling fact. During Brownhill's trial at the Assizes, Captain Anson, the Chief Constable of Staffordshire, declared in evidence that he had received numerous postcards signed "G. H. Darby, Captain of the Wyrley gany." He further swore that some of these postcards signed "The Spotter" were in exactly the same handwriting. Mr. Justice Scrutton made no reference to this evidence, and the jury doubtless concluded that G. H. Darby and Archibald Brownhill were one and the same man. But on February 10th of this year a further "Darby" postcard was received at Wolverhampton. At this time Brownhill was safely lodged in gaol. The inference is irresistible. Archibald Brownhill is not "The Spotter," who sometimes for purposes of his own masquerades as "G. H. Darby." "The Spotter" is still at large.

It is strange that Brownhill's case should thus be brought into touch with the notorious "Wyrley gang," whose operations are associated in the public mind with the sad case of George Edalji, who, through a mistake in identity, paid the heavy price of an unknown felon's guilt.

Mr. Harold Kimpton, Brownhill's solicitor, who has all these amazing documents in his possession, has lodged a petition to the Home Secretary for a full enquiry into the astounding facts to which we call attention. We are convinced that the public will not stand by and allow an innocent man to suffer the penalty of another's guilt.

Mr. McKenna must act quickly. There is not a moment to lose. There must be no repetition of the judicial tragedies associated with the names of Adolf Beck and George Edalji. "The Spotter" must change places with Archibald Brownhill in the fastness of Warwick Gaol.

BILKING A 'BUSMAN.

SCOTLAND YARD MEANNESS AND SOPHISTRY.

Under Police Regulations, all public conveyance attendants finding property must deposit it at the nearest police station within 48 hours. If the article is claimed within three months the finder is entitled to 15 per cent. of the value; if the owner should not turn up before the expiration of that period it belongs to the finder.

On July 7th last, E. W. Short, a 'bus conductor, found on his 'bus two gold purses containing half a sovereign and some coppers. Short suffers very much from bronchitis, and the day following, being Sunday, he took a rest. He, however, sent his wife to deposit the purses at the nearest police-station—Bethnal Green. On July 31st, Short received the following letter from Scotland Yard:—

> I am directed by the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis to acquaint you that as you failed to comply with the conditions of the law which requires that you should personally deposit any property found by you on your omnibus, he is unable to grant you any reward in respect of the property in question. I am to add, however, that should the loser elect to leave any reward for you as the finder of the articles, it will be paid over to you, but I am to say that the property has not yet been claimed.

Naturally, Short was indignant at the receipt of such a communication, as a full explanation had been given of the reason for his not depositing the articles personally.

Two months after the expiration of the period within which the property ought to have been claimed and the reward settled or the articles handed over—he received the following cool letter:—

> The property deposited by you on the 8th day of July not having been owned, the sum of fifteen shillings has been awarded to you as remuneration, which you can receive at this office any time between the hours of 10 and 4 o'clock.

We would point out that this communiciation is irreconcilable with the letter of July 31st. The articles not having been owned, we should like to know what has become of them. *Have they been "hypothecated" for the benefit of the Police Fund?*

"A BATLEY BIGOT."

ODDY'S MEAN TRICK ON A LADY.

In our issue of March 8th we reproduced a letter addressed from the Town Hall, Batley, and signed "W. Priestley," which had been sent to a theatrical young lady who had entertained a slight friendship with a man named John Oddy, a clerk in the Borough Treasurer's office. It stated:

> DEAR MISS,—Have opened the enclosed letter as Mr Oddy is not here. He has been warned by the Batley Corporation and has left the town.
>
> He has lost a very good situation, with bothering with such people as you, and I would impress this upon you, and you may consider yourself partly responsible for his downfall, for you know, or ought to know, that Corporations and other public bodies will not allow such actions by their employees.—Yours, etc., W. PRIESTLEY.

In our first reproduction of this letter, in order not to injure one whom we believed to be innocent, Oddy's name was omitted; but he now confesses that the document was a forgery perpetrated by himself, he having fabricated the signature of Priestley, who is a junior clerk in the same department. The bright young man asserts that, "The whole thing was carried out as a practical joke," and apparently thinks an apology to his fellow clerk, the Batley authorities, and the artiste, quite sufficient reparation. We can only say that the matter is open to a very different interpretation; but it certainly has two of the characteristic features of the general run of such boorish attempts at wit—cruelty and cowardice. Instead of heading our first paragraph "A Batley Bigot," we should, it seems, have characterised the writer of the mean and insulting communication as "A Batley Bounder." We regret that, not being possessed of "a pair o' patent double million magnifyin' gas miscroscopes of hextra power," we did not perceive the fraud which was being practised, and were therefore led to pass quite undeserved strictures upon an innocent man.

JERRY-BUILT JUSTICE.

A JURY IN A HURRY AND A JUDGE IN A HUFF.

At the recent Assizes at Guildford, a girl named Killick was placed on trial for stealing wearing apparel from several houses in which she had been employed as a domestic servant. The girl's lover, a young man named Oliver, was arraigned with her on a charge of "receiving." Oliver was very skilfully defended by Mr. St. Gerrans, with the result that quite early in the case the jury intimated that they were satisfied of the male prisoner's innocence, and he was accordingly discharged. The girl was subsequently convicted and sentenced to six months' imprisonment, the judge remarking that he was firmly convinced that Oliver was equally guilty.

Both the prisoners are natives of Reigate, and the action of the jury has evoked a storm of criticism in that town. We are not usually disposed to criticise jurymen who exercise their undoubted right to give a prisoner the benefit of the doubt, but there are one or two points in connection with this case which call for comment.

In the first place, the prosecution at the Assizes seems to have been remarkably weak in contrast to the ability shown by the defence. During the preliminary hearing at the police court a police officer produced a letter from Oliver to Killick, in which the following passage occurred:

> If you have your eye on one or two things I will bring another basket over, and two if you like, and I bet you won't let the boss make himself sick with smoking. . . . if you have got your eye on him.

Apparently, this very strong piece of evidence against Oliver was omitted at the Assizes, and although Mr. Justice Ridley must have had it on his police court depositions before him, he made no attempt to remedy the omission.

Secondly, if the Judge was convinced that Oliver was guilty, he should himself have subjected him to stringent cross-examination. His affectation of helplessness in the face of the jury's action is totally unconvincing; he should have ordered them to remain in the box, and have endeavoured by all fair means to impress them with the justice of his own view of the case. Instead, however, he weakly accepted their premature verdict and then indulged in a series of peevish outbursts over the turn events had taken. We have frequently protested against the judicial varying of a jury's well-considered verdict, and we adhere to all that we have said; but at the same time we consider that it is part of a judge's duty to restrain jurymen from rash and precipitate action calculated to subvert the course of justice. Mr. Justice Ridley should have ordered the jury to do their duty by hearing the whole of the evidence for both the prosecution and the defence, and should then have abided by their decision. If, in fact, the girl Killick has unjustly been made to pay the penalty which should properly have been shared with another, we cannot acquit the Judge of responsibility.

THREE MONTHS' NOTICE.

BLUSHING TO BE BORN UNDER OFFICIAL INSPECTION.

The latest ukase to married men in the Navy is that they must give three months' notice—not of quittance but of arrival: in other words, the approximate date of the expected confinement of their wives—otherwise the 30s. Maternity Benefit, as laid down in the Insurance Act, will not be allowed, and the man himself will be punished for disobedience to orders! This mandate is, obviously, not only idiotic, but is grossly degrading also. The sailor pays for his Insurance benefits, and yet he is made to conform to a stupid extra regulation on penalty of punishment. We wonder what would happen if civilian husbands were ordered to give three months' notice of their expected paternity. We fancy we should hear some strong language. Three months' notice, indeed! Let the Lords of the Admiralty try it themselves. And the Navy used to have such a reputation for Quixotic chivalry—going to the length even of draping the gangways when ladies were expected, so that the fair visitors might be spared blushes at Jack's ardent gaze at their trim ankles!

Every "Bullets" coupon is READ TWICE slowly and with care.

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BILKING A 'BUSMAN.

SCOTLAND YARD MEANNESS AND SOPHISTRY.

Under Police Regulations, all public conveyance attendants finding property must deposit it at the nearest police station within 48 hours. If the article is claimed within three months the finder is entitled to 15 per cent. of the value; if the owner should not turn up before the expiration of that period it belongs to the finder.

On July 7th last, E. W. Short, a 'bus conductor, found on his 'bus two gold purses containing half a sovereign and some coppers. Short suffers very much from bronchitis, and the day following, being Sunday, he took a rest. He, however, sent his wife to deposit the purses at the nearest police-station—Bethnal Green. On July 31st, Short received the following letter from Scotland Yard:—

> I am directed by the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis to acquaint you that as you failed to comply with the conditions of the law which requires that you should personally deposit any property found by you on your omnibus, he is unable to grant you any reward in respect of the property in question. I am to add, however, that should the loser elect to leave any reward for you as the finder of the articles, it will be paid over to you, but I am to say that the property has not yet been claimed.

Naturally, Short was indignant at the receipt of such a communication, as a full explanation had been given of the reason for his not depositing the articles personally.

Two months after the expiration of the period within which the property ought to have been claimed and the reward settled or the articles handed over—he received the following cool letter:—

> The property deposited by you on the 8th day of July not having been owned, the sum of fifteen shillings has been awarded to you as remuneration, which you can receive at this office any time between the hours of 10 and 4 o'clock.

We would point out that this communiciation is irreconcilable with the letter of July 31st. The articles not having been owned, we should like to know what has become of them. *Have they been "hypothecated" for the benefit of the Police Fund?*

"A BATLEY BIGOT."

ODDY'S MEAN TRICK ON A LADY.

In our issue of March 8th we reproduced a letter addressed from the Town Hall, Batley, and signed "W. Priestley," which had been sent to a theatrical young lady who had entertained a slight friendship with a man named John Oddy, a clerk in the Borough Treasurer's office. It stated:

> DEAR MISS,—Have opened the enclosed letter as Mr Oddy is not here. He has been warned by the Batley Corporation and has left the town.
>
> He has lost a very good situation, with bothering with such people as you, and I would impress this upon you, and you may consider yourself partly responsible for his downfall, for you know, or ought to know, that Corporations and other public bodies will not allow such actions by their employees.—Yours, etc., W. PRIESTLEY.

In our first reproduction of this letter, in order not to injure one whom we believed to be innocent, Oddy's name was omitted; but he now confesses that the document was a forgery perpetrated by himself, he having fabricated the signature of Priestley, who is a junior clerk in the same department. The bright young man asserts that, "The whole thing was carried out as a practical joke," and apparently thinks an apology to his fellow clerk, the Batley authorities, and the artiste, quite sufficient reparation. We can only say that the matter is open to a very different interpretation; but it certainly has two of the characteristic features of the general run of such boorish attempts at wit—cruelty and cowardice. Instead of heading our first paragraph "A Batley Bigot," we should, it seems, have characterised the writer of the mean and insulting communication as "A Batley Bounder." We regret that, not being possessed of "a pair o' patent double million magnifyin' gas miscroscopes of hextra power," we did not perceive the fraud which was being practised, and were therefore led to pass quite undeserved strictures upon an innocent man.

JERRY-BUILT JUSTICE.

A JURY IN A HURRY AND A JUDGE IN A HUFF.

At the recent Assizes at Guildford, a girl named Killick was placed on trial for stealing wearing apparel from several houses in which she had been employed as a domestic servant. The girl's lover, a young man named Oliver, was arraigned with her on a charge of "receiving." Oliver was very skilfully defended by Mr. St. Gerrans, with the result that quite early in the case the jury intimated that they were satisfied of the male prisoner's innocence, and he was accordingly discharged. The girl was subsequently convicted and sentenced to six months' imprisonment, the judge remarking that he was firmly convinced that Oliver was equally guilty.

Both the prisoners are natives of Reigate, and the action of the jury has evoked a storm of criticism in that town. We are not usually disposed to criticise jurymen who exercise their undoubted right to give a prisoner the benefit of the doubt, but there are one or two points in connection with this case which call for comment.

In the first place, the prosecution at the Assizes seems to have been remarkably weak in contrast to the ability shown by the defence. During the preliminary hearing at the police court a police officer produced a letter from Oliver to Killick, in which the following passage occurred:

> If you have your eye on one or two things I will bring another basket over, and two if you like, and I bet you won't let the boss make himself sick with smoking. . . . if you have got your eye on him.

Apparently, this very strong piece of evidence against Oliver was omitted at the Assizes, and although Mr. Justice Ridley must have had it on his police court depositions before him, he made no attempt to remedy the omission.

Secondly, if the Judge was convinced that Oliver was guilty, he should himself have subjected him to stringent cross-examination. His affectation of helplessness in the face of the jury's action is totally unconvincing; he should have ordered them to remain in the box, and have endeavoured by all fair means to impress them with the justice of his own view of the case. Instead, however, he weakly accepted their premature verdict and then indulged in a series of peevish outbursts over the turn events had taken. We have frequently protested against the judicial varying of a jury's well-considered verdict, and we adhere to all that we have said; but at the same time we consider that it is part of a judge's duty to restrain jurymen from rash and precipitate action calculated to subvert the course of justice. Mr. Justice Ridley should have ordered the jury to do their duty by hearing the whole of the evidence for both the prosecution and the defence, and should then have abided by their decision. If, in fact, the girl Killick has unjustly been made to pay the penalty which should properly have been shared with another, we cannot acquit the Judge of responsibility.

THREE MONTHS' NOTICE.

BLUSHING TO BE BORN UNDER OFFICIAL INSPECTION.

The latest ukase to married men in the Navy is that they must give three months' notice—not of quittance but of arrival: in other words, the approximate date of the expected confinement of their wives—otherwise the 30s. Maternity Benefit, as laid down in the Insurance Act, will not be allowed, and the man himself will be punished for disobedience to orders! This mandate is, obviously, not only idiotic, but is grossly degrading also. The sailor pays for his Insurance benefits, and yet he is made to conform to a stupid extra regulation on penalty of punishment. We wonder what would happen if civilian husbands were ordered to give three months' notice of their expected paternity. We fancy we should hear some strong language. Three months' notice, indeed! Let the Lords of the Admiralty try it themselves. And the Navy used to have such a reputation for Quixotic chivalry—going to the length even of draping the gangways when ladies were expected, so that the fair visitors might be spared blushes at Jack's ardent gaze at their trim ankles!

Every "Bullets" coupon is READ TWICE slowly and with care.

"ANOTHER WICKED DECISION."

RIPON MAGISTRATES' DEFENCE—AND OUR REJOINDER.

In our issue of March 8th we published a paragraph entitled "Another Wicked Decision." The case referred to was one in which a man and his wife, recently arrived at Ripon, and being destitute, sent their little son, eight years of age, to beg a few crusts of bread. "Though the man produced his Insurance card showing where he last worked," the magistrates, Messrs. Mountain and Walker, inflicted upon the couple a fine of £1 and 6s. 6d. costs, with the alternative of a month's hard laboru, obvious as it was that, not having a penny in their pockets, the sentence was really imprisonment without the option.

ONUS OF PROOF ON PROSECUTION.

These Ripon magistrates have written to tell us, firstly, that "there was no evidence the man or woman were honest working people." Our reply is that this is not a point in favour of their worships, for there was no evidence that they were *not*. In the second place, they say the man's "Insurance card was irregularly stamped, bearing three stamps in the last quarter, one stamp uncancelled; the card bore from its crumpled and dirty condition all the appearance of being used for improper purposes." Here again we reply that the point is not in favour of their worships. They had no evidence before them that the card had been or was being used for improper purposes. Men tramping about for work do not carry their insurance cards in wallets lined with white satin, and the fact that the man had this Insurance card upon him, "bearing three stamps in the last quarter," was *primâ facie* evidence that he had recently been in honest employment. In the third place, they say the defendants were not charged with begging, but were charged under the Children Act of 1909 for exploiting a child for the purposes of begging, and that to this offence they pleaded guilty. Once more our reply is that this is not the point of our criticism. We stated distinctly that "we have not much sentiment to waste on people who use their children for purposes of begging, but——." It is true the couple admitted having sent the child to one or two places to beg food, for it was indisputable; but they said they did so because they were without food. In the fourth place, they say "the boy was wholly neglected and could neither read nor write." Our reply is that their worships' case is not served by that statement, because the charge against the couple was not that of neglecting the boy or failing to send him to school. In the fifth place, they say that "the circumstances of the man and woman been (*sic*) separated is one in which the magistrates have no option." Our reply is that we admit this may be so, but their lack of option does not alter the cruel fact of the separation, taking the case as it stands on the evidence. In the sixth place, they say "the woman returned to Ripon by train and with the boy went forward to Northallerton, whether by road or rail is not known to us, but this was entirely in the direction the man was supposed to be going to find work." Their worships cannot take any credit for it, because it is entirely due to the fact that people in town subscribed the fine.

EVIDENCE *versus* SUPPOSITION AND PREJUDICE.

And now we come to the gravamen of the whole business, and it illustrates what we have been hammering at unceasingly. It matters not for what offence a man is charged, he must be judged by strict evidence apart from supposition or prejudice, and in respect of punishment he certainly ought to be judged according to all the circumstances and on the individual merits. This has been the subject of Home Office memoranda to magistrates, we believe, and is to be the subject of a Home Office Bill presently to be introduced into Parliament. Can anything be more stupid, more absurd, or more disproportionate to the offence charged and the evidence before the magistrates in this case, than that an apparently honest couple seeking work, hungry and without a penny in their pockets, should be called upon to pay £1 6s. 6d. with the alternative of a month's hard labour? The magistrates knew the couple could no more pay the money than they could pay £1,000.

The reason is not admitted in this case, and it never is in any other of a like kind, but it is that a sentence of a month's hard labour would appear so harsh and vindictive that magistrates try to hide its real features.

WHO MURDERED THE GIRL SCOUT?

OUR EVIDENCE PLACED BEFORE WOKING'S M.P., MR. STANLEY BUCKMASTER, K.C.

We have now completed our enquiries into the mystery of the murder of the little Girl Scout at Woking in December last, and we say, without hesitation, that we have quite sufficient evidence against a certain man to justify the police in arresting him on suspicion. The grave part of our indictment, however, is undoubtedly the gross negligence on the part of the local police in not having apprehended this man immediately the body was found. We will go further and say that immediately the child was lost, his house ought to have been searched. That he is a man of abnormal sexual habits we have ample evidence. Some time ago he molested other little children. Why he was not prosecuted on that occasion passes our understanding.

It has come to our knowledge that the man in question—although not invited to do so—has made several attempts to establish an *alibi* to the people in the district, stating that he was elsewhere at the time the child was missing. This we can prove by overwhelming evidence to be untrue When the body was found, although it had been raining for many hours the clothing was perfectly dry, and on it was a certain amount of peculiar dust which we are informed is similar to dust which can be found in a room frequently occupied by the man in question. Closely associated with this man is another individual, living not far away from him, and bearing anything but a good character, and our Special Commissioner is not satisfied that he, too, was not concerned in the crime.

We may add that the two companions of the little victims are absolutely sure that they could identify the man who enticed the girl away.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE.

We suggest that the two men we have indicated should at once be asked to account for their movements on the night of the murder, and to place themselves for identification amongst a number of other men—if not actually arrested on suspicion. Of course, it is a very serious matter, and it would not be in the interests of justice were we to publish the details of the evidence we have collected. We have hesitated as to whether to disclose it to Scotland Yard or the Public Prosecutor, but in the end, having regard to all the circumstances of the case, we have decided to place it in the hands of Mr. Buckmaster, M.P.—the distinguished lawyer who represents Woking in Parliament. Mr. Buckmaster has taken a deep interest in this matter, and is, we believe, highly indignant at the attitude of the County Police in regard to it. At any rate, we are sure that, busy as he is, he will not begrudge the time necessary to sift thoroughly the evidence, and, if possible, to bring to justice the outrager and murderer of the little child of one of his constituents.

"THE SOAP WRAPPER NUISANCE."

SOFT SOAP FOR SHOPPERS, "SPONDULIX" FOR SPECULATORS.

We have not yet seen any announcement from Messrs. Watson of the number of wrappers which secured the prizes in their recent collection competition, but are informed, on authority which has hitherto proved remarkably accurate, that several of the winners are the nominees of the "Wrapper King"—the man to whom we referred as sending out gangs of professional buyers to induce private users of the soap to part with their wrappers for the merest trifle. The particular kind of wrapper which is the most difficult to obtain was, we are told, acquired by purchasing the soap, stripping it of its covering and then palming the article off on the unsuspecting—one great advantage of this little dodge, of course, being that purchasers were debarred from competing for the prizes. An Edinburgh housewife tells us that she has used one of Watsons' specialities for twenty years and had saved 1,500 wrappers. She, however, had none of the other two kinds necessary for the competition, and would have had to invest £2 8s. in the unwanted brands to have qualified her for a prize, which might even then, of course, have been of insignificant value.

The biggest thing ever done in Football Competitions. See page 427.

FISHERS OF MONEY.

THE "CASH WITH ORDER" CATCH AGAIN.

Though, in view of the attitude of the Marconi Company, it would be by no means unprecedented for persons entering into contracts with the State to repudiate their engagements and consequently be unable to carry out minor dependent undertakings, we think that we must look for some other explanation of the complaints we have received regarding the methods of business of J. Fisher & Sons, of 46, Artillery Place, Woolwich, describing themselves as "Government Contractors"—apparently on the ground that they sometimes buy discarded and condemned Army and Navy stores. During the last few years we have given publicity to a good many grumbles from persons dissatisfied with the goods supplied by this firm, or complaining that they have been unable to get what they paid for, and a Leigh-on-Sea reader now tells us that over a month ago he sent them 3s. 9d. for a pair of brown blankets which they were advertising, but that up to the time of writing us the goods had not reached him, nor had he obtained a refund of his money. The acknowledgment of the receipt of his postal order assured him that the blankets would "be forwarded on early this week," and Fisher's anxiety to give him immediately what he had paid for was professed in the following polite request:—"Should you not receive same within three days after date mentioned please let us know." After a postcard from the firm marking time, another note arrived equivocally regretting the "unusual delay caused through the non-delivery of a large consignment of these goods *as expected* (!)" and assuring the customer that supplies were therefore being obtained from another source. Fisher's "4thly," was as follows:—"We much regret that through an unaccountable clerical error we are compelled to ask you to kindly favour us with the date and particulars of your order for goods to enable us to trace the same." This was followed by polite thanks for the somewhat redundant information, and an assurance that "the matter will now be cleared and goods despatched in course of a few days." A week, however, having elapsed, our blanketless friend has communicated with us. We are afraid that nothing short of County Court proceedings will move Fishers. An almost universal complaint has been that the firm takes no notice of letters. They now, however, seem to be quite prodigal of paper and ink, but what those who have sent them money want are "the goods."

AN IMPERTINENT POSTCARD.

EPISTOLARY ETHICS OF LONDON HOSPITAL CHAIRMAN.

The indignant recipient of a peculiar postcard sends it to us with the vehement statement that he considers it "a very impertinent one, and an extraordinary as well as rude mode of asking for contributions." The production is, indeed, happily, an uncommon one, measuring no less than 8¼ ins. by 5½ ins., and bearing the following words in the imitated handwriting of the Hon. Sydney Holland, under a touching photograph of a pair of hands clasped in prayer:—

> I wrote to you a few weeks ago asking you if you would kindly help the London Hospital. *May I take silence to mean consent*—or must I think my letter has gone into the Waste-Paper-Basket? These personal letters entailed *very* hard work, and *despair* is added to this when there is *no response*.—SYDNEY HOLLAND.

The lithography of Mr. Holland's handwriting is very clever, but surely it is deceptive to refer to such reproductions as "personal letters," and speak of them as entailing "*very* hard work." As a matter of fact, the only genuine handwriting is the address—which Mr. Holland *may* himself have filled in from some directory.

The finishing touch is added by the printed statement that "cheques and postal orders should be crossed 'Robarts, Lubbock and Co.,' and addressed The Honble. Sydney Holland, Chairman, London Hospital, London E." On the other side of the card is a good deal of gush intended to loosen purse-strings, but any tendency in that direction will probably be rendered inoperative by the ill-advised reproachful tone of the Honble. Sydney's appeal—which is certain to be resented by most of the recipients. Charity, of course, covers a multitude of sins, but it doesn't act as an envelope to hide objectionable postcards.

A "FLESH CREEPER."

THE POOR WE HAVE ALWAYS WITH US—TO DEFAME.

A twenty-four page pamphlet cadging for funds for Charrington's City Mission is now being distributed. It is supposed to give the result of an enquiry into the conditions of the abject poor. Here are a few quotations:—

> Tens of thousands are crowded together amidst horrors which call to mind what we have heard of the middle passage of the slave ship. . . . Here is a mother who turns her children into the street in the early evening because she lets her rooms for immoral purposes until long after midnight, when the poor little wretches creep back again if they have not found some miserable shelter elsewhere. . . .

The writer of the pamphlet then, in the bluntest language, proceeds to make sweeping charges against the slum-dweller—"the only check" upon the grossest immorality being, it is stated, "jealousy and not virtue." The author roundly asserts that "entire courts are filled with thieves, liberated convicts and persons of even more undesirable character. Of 35 houses in one street, 32 are *known* to be used systematically for immoral purposes, while in another district are 43 of these houses, and 428 fallen women and girls. A neighbourhood whose population is returned at 10,100, contains 400 who follow this immoral traffic, their ages varying from 15 to 50."

Frankly, we don't believe it. If the responsible head of the Tower Hamlets Mission will conduct our representative round the hovels described in the pamphlet, and prove only a few of the wild statements it contains, we will do what we can to help him to remove such a blot upon civilization. We are quite aware that the conditions of the very poor in London are far from what they should be, but to paint the victims of modern industrialism as a lot of immoral monsters is a crime against a class among whom drunkenness and immorality exist to a far less extent than amongst—say, the clergy.

FUNNY FIRE-FIGHTERS.

A SCREAMING SKETCH FROM STOCKTON HEATH.

The dear old Stockton Heath Fire Brigade appear to have missed their vocation. Had the recent fire in the village happened about Christmas, they could have filled up as a pantomime troupe. It is too late to think of such a thing now, though, if they can "pot" it into a one-act sketch it would probably go like—let us say—wildfire.

It is, apparently, uncertain where the brigade were when the fire broke out in the early morning. Rumour says they were in bed. Anyway, one of the members hadn't heard a whisper about the matter on the following Sunday morning, when a tram conductor told him the awful news.

Should they take our tip and go on the boards, our further advice is that they should make the scenery for the sketch as realistic as possible. For instance, there is the Fire Station bearing the notice, "In case of fire ring bell which hangs at corner of Police Station," and if they graphically represent the terrible trials of the tenant as he rushed to the police station to ring the bell—only to find it wasn't there and had never been there, but would probably be there in the sweet by-and-bye, subject to permission from the County Council—we shouldn't be surprised if they have the whole audience sobbing, especially if they carry the pathos to the scene at the local Council meeting where, being questioned as to the present whereabouts of the fire-alarm bell—"under the bed or where?"—the Chairman of the Fire Appliances Committee relieved the anxiety of the members by telling them it was in the stable. As it has been suggested that between now and the next fire the bell should be placed on the top of an eighteen-feet standard, a place might also be found for an episode depicting a burnt-out inhabitant rushing to the standard, and on arrival, finding he has forgotten to bring a clothes' prop wherewith to tickle the tintinnabulum, climbing up the standard with the four winds blowing about his nightie to give tongue to the tocsin by sleight-of-hand. This would be a great finale, and then the curtain could be rung down—necessarily hastily—in a comfortable assurance of a high place in the affections of the people as a public entertainment.

This week £400 again offered for the best "Bullet."

THE REVEREND PATRICK M'GETTIGAN, P.P.

A CLERICAL CADGER.

Whether they be for Anglican, Nonconformist, Salvation Army, or Roman Catholic purposes, we object to certain sensational forms of cadging for subscriptions by which cash is abstracted from the pockets of the hysterical and mistakenly benevolent. That is why we take exception to the method adopted by the reverend gentleman mentioned above, who has recently been circularising Ireland with the following document:

CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF LORETTO.
MUSSELBURGH, SCOTLAND.

Behold a great opportunity for all who would like to be benefactors of our Lady's Church, and enrolled in the GUARD OF HONOUR of THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.

Help us to lessen our HEAVY DEBT by sending even THREEPENCE, and you will become members of OUR GUARD OF HONOUR.

The GUARD OF HONOUR consists of all—living or dead—whose names are sent on to us, and for each of which there is an OFFERING OF THREEPENCE. Their names will be written in a book—THE GUARD OF HONOUR BOOK, and placed near THE BLESSED SACRAMENT. Here they will form a GUARD OF HONOUR. Here they will remain day and night, and on through the years. They will be like A CONTINUAL PRAYER to Him in whose Divine Presence they are.

PRIVILEGES:—All will enjoy a MEMENTO EVERY DAY IN MASS—DURING LIFE AND AFTER DEATH. We do not bind our successors.

ONE MASS A WEEK—ON SUNDAY AT 9 o'clock—WILL BE OFFERED UP FOR THEM, TILL THE END OF THE YEAR 1913.

A NOVENA, consisting of nine MASSES, will be offered up for all Members of "THE GUARD OF HONOUR"—living and dead—beginning on Candlemas Day, February 2nd, 1913, and ending on Monday, February 10th, 1913.

Try to get the benefit of this NOVENA—of the weekly Masses to be said to the end of the year—and of the daily memento in Mass—in life and after death.

A HANDSOME PHOTOGRAPH of the interior of the Church will be sent to each Collector who fills ONE FORM.

A HANDSOME CABINET SIZE PHOTOGRAPH of the PARISH PRIEST to each Collector who fills TWO FORMS.

I enclose a form for TEN NAMES. Each name represents an offering of 3d.; the TEN NAMES an offering of 2s. 6d.

Will you, in your charity, FILL ONE FORM FOR ME? Or, if unable, will you kindly fill EVEN A PART OF IT? I shall be most grateful even for ONE NAME.

You may insert the names of the LIVING AND THE DEAD. Both share in all the privileges mentioned.

Could you send me the NAME and ADDRESS of ONE PERSON who would collect for me? I should be most grateful.

I FEEL SURE YOU WILL COME TO MY ASSISTANCE AT THIS TIME, AND HELP TO LIGHTEN OUR HEAVY BURDEN. MAY GOD REWARD ALL WHO DO SO.

REVEREND PATRICK M'GETTIGAN, P.P.,
Priest's House, MUSSELBURGH, SCOTLAND.

P.S.—Contributions gratefully acknowledged.

Any already enrolled in our Guard of Honour are, of course, still enrolled. But they may be enrolled again, and share in the advantages special to this time.

Postal orders preferred to stamps. HALFPENNY stamps preferred to penny ones.

Our object in printing the above is not to call down ridicule upon the Roman Catholic faith, but to provide our readers with evidence that certain forms of religious begging circulars are highly objectionable and worthy only of contempt. Far more spiritual benefit can be derived from sending a small subscription to our Human Document Fund than from joining some mystical, if not mythical, Guard of Honour.

A PLYMOUTH PEST.

A TIP ABOUT THE "TIP."

When the Plymouth police have finished spying on bookmakers and prosecuting whist-drive promoters, perhaps they will give a little attention to the protection of children. Several parents write complaining about a brute who frequents Beaumont Park and indecently assaults little children. Whenever complaints have been lodged, the official reply is that it is a difficult matter to catch the man. Of course it is. All the more reason for increased vigilance. We suggest to the Chief Constable that a few plain-clothes constables should be placed on special duty near the waste ground known as the "Tip."

MUDDLE-HEADED MAGISTRATES.

FINE FOR THE FARMER AND PRISON FOR THE PEDLAR.

Our attention has been called to a remarkable magisterial performance at Skipton, Yorkshire, which for sheer muddle-headed ineptitude would be hard to beat—though others of the "great unpaid" are "very hot."

At a recent sitting of the Police Court two cases of larceny were down for hearing. In one of these, two men—a pedlar and a labourer—were charged with stealing a length of old chain, valued at 7s., from a rubbish heap belonging to the Leeds and Liverpool Canal Company. Their defence was that, as the chain was on the scrap heap, they concluded it had been discarded by the Company—a plea which we should have regarded as an eminently reasonable one. The Magistrates, however, appear to have been unimpressed by this common-sense explanation, for they found both men guilty and sentenced them to one month's hard labour "without the option"—a penalty scandalously disproportionate to the triviality of the offence.

In the second case, a farmer was convicted of stealing fowls from his neighbour's henhouse. The prisoner had a shockingly bad record, having been before the Court no less than nine times for larceny and similar offences. Here, surely, was a case in which a smart sentence was demanded, in the interests of justice and for the protection of property. The Magistrates, however, announced their determination to deal leniently with the accused. He was find 40s. and costs. When last this rascal was convicted of thieving he was fined £10. Next time he may reasonably expect to be discharged with a caution!

Stupid severity and ill-considered clemency are alike calculated to encourage the commission of crime. We shall keep an eye on the Skipton Bench.

THE SONG OF THE HACK.

Crack! Crack!!
There goes the whip for the Party hack,
See him slink to his destined Lobby
Under the eye of a smirking bobby.

Crack! Crack!!
Hear him mutter with cringing back:
"If I should vote as my conscience bids,
What's to become of the wife and kids?"

Crack! Crack!!
They come to heel like hounds in a pack,
'Specially Jenkins, the gent. who swore
To support the cause they elected him for.

Crack! Crack!!
All through the Session and half through the Vac.
Four hundred a year! Few jobs are fatter:
So what do election promises matter?

Crack! Crack!!
Somebody's got it—an awful whack.
Jones was arguing—*said he ought*
To give the matter some extra thought.

To turn it over awhile in his mind.
And that's why Jones was lagging behind.
Curse his impudence! Darn his cheek!
Why does he think he gets eight quid a week?
Not for thinking: and certainly not
For talking of "conscience" and similar rot.
Tear him to pieces, break his bones!
Choke the damnable traitor Jones!!
Give it him now, boys, good and hearty!
Strike for your salaries, strike for your Party!

Crack! Crack!!
The huntsman is calling his mongrels back.
Jones is in bits, torn limb from limb,
A pretty example they've made of him!

Crack! Crack!!
Party discipline mustn't be slack,
Politicians can all be hired,
So independence is not required. L. S.

Four distinct Pension and Cash prizes—£1,250 MUST BE WON! See page 427.

"JOHN BULL'S" WEEKLY CINEMA.

BULL-DOGGEREL RHYMES BY "THE BOW-WOW."

Sir Percy Scott resigns his post,
No more he'll sail the ocean,
We know the cause as well as most—
At least, we have a notion.

Though beaten in the boatrace, Cambs
In other sports stands high,
For Ashington, by inches, breaks
The record made by Fry.

For adding water to his milk—
He'd best have added rum—
John Watts, the Kingsland dairyman,
Is fined the maximum.

The strike the weapon has become
To square all troubles by,
But when it comes a strike of cooks,
That is "le dernier 'Cri.'"

Sir Thomas Lipton's challenge is
By Uncle Sam refused;
Such "sportsmanship" don't make us cross,
We're heartily amused!

Lord Roberts with his banner scales
The peak of apathy,
And with his patriot arguments
Appeals to you and me.

"MONKEY PUZZLES."

PANEL DOCTORS AND THEIR ENGAGEMENTS TO ORDINARY PATIENTS.

On March 8th we gave, as an example of the conundrums propounded to us by people whose old relations with their medical attendants had been revolutionised by the Insurance Act, the case of a Goswell Road reader who, in November last, engaged a local partnership of doctors, Messrs. R. and R. Macgregor, to attend his wife in her anticipated confinement this month—the man having just then received an intimation from the medical gentlemen that, owing to the heavy work in connection with the Act, they regretted that they were compelled to give up all confinement cases, and therefore cancelled the engagement. Our advice was that our correspondent should sue the doctors in the County Court for damages. The soundness of this counsel is proved by the following extract from the *Daily Mail* of March 14th:—

> For not attending the wife of Mr. Carl Rothstein, of Chiswick, in a maternity case, after agreeing to do so, Dr. W. E. Falconer, of Hammersmith Road, W., was at Marylebone County Court yesterday ordered to pay £2 2s. damages and costs.

In regard to such matters, the unfortunate doctors appear to be "between the Devil and the deep blue sea."

EDUCATIONAL TYRANNY.

A SCHOOL OFFICIAL'S MEAN TRICK.

One of our Greenwich readers has recently been in trouble with the local Education authority, and he complains bitterly of the treatment he has received. He states that he has always sent his little girl regularly to school, but a short time ago he learned that she had frequently wandered about the streets during school hours, so that her record of attendance was a very bad one. It appears that the child was not "playing truant" in the ordinary sense, for she has recently been examined by a doctor and found to be mentally deficient; indeed, she is scarcely responsible for her actions. Although this fact was communicated to the Education Committee by the father, a summons was issued, with the result that he has now been fined in respect of the child's non-attendance. If the facts are as stated, the education authorities have acted in a harsh and an unscrupulous way. It is a scandalous thing that a poor working man should be mulcted in what to him is a heavy fine, for a technical breach of the law which he could not possibly have avoided. It was the duty of the Education officer conducting the case to put the Court in full possession of all the facts. This does not appear to have been done, and we have little doubt that grave injustice has been perpetrated.

Our New Football Prize Offer. All Records Broken!

OUR COLOSSAL FOOTBALL COMPETITION.

A MAMMOTH WIND-UP OF THE SEASON.

Have you read about it—on page 428? Isn't it truly wonderful? A Pension of £7 per week for Life—or £750 for the first runner-up—£400 for the next (that makes £1,150—*one thousand, one hundred and fifty pounds!*)—£100 as a Special Prize for the most successful lady competitor should one of the fair sex not win one of the others—One Thousand, Two Hundred and Fifty Pounds in all! Verily, this "takes the Biscuit." It is a world's record. And, like "Bullets," and the "John Bull Derby Sweepstake," and everything else bearing our hall-mark, it is absolutely straight. The money is lodged in the Bank, and the official receipts for it are reproduced on page 428. What a wind-up for the season! Does it pay us? Of course it does. How? We will tell you. We make a small profit on every thousand copies of this journal which we sell.

We reckon that we shall secure at least one regular reader out of every two competitors who buy us for the first time. That means many thousand new readers by the end of the Football season; and, in time, that means a regular profit to us—to say nothing of the increased advertisement revenue which follows increased sales. Now you see why we do it. It is *Business.*

One word more. Some of you may purchase more than one copy of each issue whilst the Competition is open. What are you going to do with the spare copy after you have cut out the coupon? Here's another chance for you—and us. Hand it, or post it, to some friend or acquaintance, or leave it in some prominent place, where people are sure to see it. Then at the end of the Competition write and tell us what you did with all your extra copies, and if we think you have helped us—well, watch the post. We do not expect you to work for nothing.

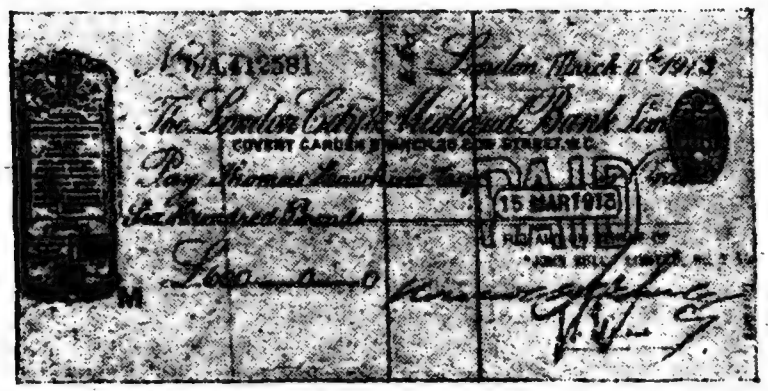
So now go ahead and win. *And then have a go at our "Bullets."* We must not suggest that you should also try your luck in the "John Bull Derby Sweep"—or we *might* be infringing the Lottery Act. And that would be too terrible!

But, whatever else you do, have a try for that Pension. Now, then, "Are you ready?—*Go!*"

OUR SECOND GREAT FOOTBALL COMPETITION

HOW THE WINNER OF THE £600 RECEIVED THE NEWS.

Mr. Thomas Hawkins, of 4, George Yard, Andover, Hants., the winner of our second great Football Competition, writes us that his heart is too full for words—as, were we to put ourselves in his place, we would understand. He is a baker, aged 42, and has been married for about twelve years. Though he has always been in work, it has been a hand-to-mouth existence with three children, the



youngest three years old. A fresh arrival is, moreover, expected, which he intends to name after this journal—if a boy, John; if a girl, Johanna. As he cannot personally answer the overwhelming number of congratulations he has received, he has published a message of thanks in his local Press. Mr. Hawkins is not at the moment able to say what he will do with this large sum of money, but assures us that it will be looked after!

The cheque will be on view in the window of the shop of the Misses Mair, Newsagents, High Street, Andover, for the week ending Wednesday, March 26th.

HUMAN DOCUMENT.—CCXXXVIII.

[In this column every week we publish particulars of some human derelict whose case, after full investigation, we are able to recommend to the charity of our readers. We are happy to say that in this way we have already been the means of bringing comfort into many a wretched home. All amounts subscribed are duly acknowledged, and no deduction of any kind is made by us.]

STARVING, THOUGH ABLE AND WILLING TO WORK.

If any of our London readers requires a porter, packer or caretaker, we strongly recommend the following case. The man is 36 years of age, married, with two young children. He has excellent references, covering a period of twenty years. During the past twelve months, however, he has fallen on evil times. Every article of furniture or clothing that could be either pawned or sold has been parted with in order to provide food and clothing. At present this little family are on the verge of starvation. Rent also is owing, and unless the man gets work immediately and also a few pounds to put the family straight as regards rent and clothing, they will be driven into the workhouse. The man is of exemplary character, as is evident from the fact that he has been employed temporarily by the Post Office.

We have received the following amounts, which we have duly forwarded to the subjects of the "Human Documents":—

CCXXXI.—L. W. B., 4s.

CCXXXIII.—H. G. B., 10s.

CCXXXV.—"Sussex," 1s.; "A Struggler," 1s.; "Reader," 1s.; A. F., 4s. 6d.; "Eric," 1s.

CCXXXVI.—"2nd V.B.D.R.," 2s.; "Mother of Seven," 2s.; "Sussex," 1s.; J. H. N., 2s.; "Duty," 1s.; J. V., 5s.; E. G. A., 6d.; "Don," 6d.; "Frontiersman," 2s. 6d.; "Tom," 6d.; X. Y. Z., 5s.; "Mother," 2s.

CCXXXVII.—Mrs. L. J. C., 5s.; W. G. K., 2s. 6d.; C. S. (New Cross), 6d.; Mrs. C., 6d.

OUR COLLECTING BOXES.

London.—Mrs. Bennett, "Coach and Horses," Bruton Street, 1s. 0½d.; Mr. C. Besser, "Black Horse," 19, Tottenham Court Road, 2s. 3d.; "Sympathiser," 8s. 9d.; Mr. H. Arnold, "City of Canton," Upper North Street, Poplar, 1s. 1d.; Mr. S. Brandon, 227, Mile End Road, 1s. 4d.; Mr. C. W. Oaten, Messrs. Curzon Bros., 133, Oxford Street, 1s.; Mr. H. Pavey, 63, Long Lane Bermondsey, 1s. 5d.; Mr. H. Ash, 156, Weston Street, Long Lane, 1s. 3d.; Mrs. Norman, "Bercaford Arms," Camberwell, 1s. 3½d.; Mr. F. W. Pile, 33, Southwark Bridge Road, 1s.; Mr. P. Backer, 256, Walworth Road, 1s. 3d.; Mr. E. H. Westley, "The Castle," Old Kent Road, 1s.

Total: £1 4s. 6½d., which we have allocated to CCXXXVII.

A WINDFALL FROM GENEVA.

As already announced, £1,000 is to be set aside by the promoters of the "John Bull" Derby Sweepstake for distribution amongst Charities under the supervision of the Editor of this journal; and it is our great pleasure to announce that one quarter of the amount—namely, £250—has been allocated to our "Human Document" Fund. As from the end of May, a part of this sum will be apportioned, in the discretion of the Editor, to the "Human Document" of the week.

We gratefully acknowledge the receipt of £3 from Mr. J. C. Smith, the winner of the first prize in our 21st "Bullets" Competition, to be placed towards our "Human Document" Fund. This money we will utilise for the purpose of granting immediate relief to hard cases pending the publication of appeals.

IS CHARITY USELESS?

TOUCHING TRIBUTE FROM "ONE WHO WAS SAVED FROM THE DEPTHS."

In reply to the suggestion of "E. A. (Bradford)" that we should cease printing "Human Documents," one of our "cases"—signing himself, "Yours ever gratefully, 'One who was Saved from the Depths'"—writes:—

> Can "E. A." realise what it is to sit in a room hungry and cold as myself and my little sisters and brothers have done, and what a godsend it was to receive the money to purchase necessary food and warmth? I myself think there is no better way to help the poor as you are already doing, as the money given enables many a one to buy clothing and so get employment which otherwise they would not get, besides keeping the home together.

We need hardly say that this touching communication confirms us in our determination to do all in our power to elicit the sympathy and practical help of our readers on behalf of the deserving cases which are laid before us.

Eckford's
GIANT SWEET PEAS

AWARDED OVER 160 GOLD AND SILVER MEDALS

THE FINEST BLOOMS IN THE WORLD.

THAT BLOSSOM ON THE SWEET PEA PLANT ARE GROWN FROM GENUINE ECKFORD'S SEEDS.

Sweet Peas are requisite to the small, medium or large garden, and if you wish to have colour, effect, prize specimens, and tall plants, then send to **Eckford's** for your seeds. **Larger flowers, longer stems, brighter colours, and a profusion of bloom will be the result of growing Eckford's Seeds.**

In choosing your Collection, remember that **Eckford's Sweet Peas** are all **strong growers,** and every plant needs to be placed at least six inches apart, so that, while you may buy more seed for the money, remember, a cheaper collection may not be more profitable. There is a great deal of **Rubbish** being sold nowadays **as Eckford's Sweet Peas,** but they are not **Eckford's** unless **direct from Wem.** If you have bought Sweet Peas as **Eckford's** elsewhere, you have not got **Eckford's.** We have **many thousands of customers in every part of the globe,** and they are all enthusiastic about **Eckford's Seeds.**

SPECIAL NOVELTIES FOR 1913.

GUSTAV HAMEL.—This is a magnificent giant and free flowering variety of a rich rose overlaid with salmon. It is beautifully waved and four-flowered, possessing a bold upright standard. In shape it is just what a waved Sweet Pea ought to be. The plant is a strong grower, needing plenty of room. In sealed packets, 5 seeds **1/3**; 10, **2/6.**

CLEMATIS (Grandiflora Type).—This beautiful self is quite an advance in colour, being best described as a "Clematis Jackmanii" blue. As a garden variety it is most attractive, the vines being literally clothed with lovely blue flowers which are generally borne in threes on long, strong stems. In sealed packets, 5 seeds, **6d.**; 10, **1/-**

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS FOR 1913.

EXHIBITORS' "C" COLLECTION.
24 charming **Giant Waved** varieties for exhibition or any purpose, 10 seeds of each, as follows:—

Apple Blossom (Waved).
Apricot, apricot.
Asta Ohn, lavender.
Captain of the Blues (Waved) blue.
Cerise, cerise.
Clara Curtis, primrose.
Constance Oliver, creamy-pink.
Countess Spencer, pink.
Dodwell F. Browne crimson.
Dorothy Tennant (Wd.).
Etta Dyke, white.
Evelyn Hemus, creamy-pink
Flora Norton (Waved), blue.
Lady Althorpe, white.
Menie Ohristie, mauve.
Maud Holmes, crimson.
Mrs. Chas. Mander, mauve.
Mrs. Hardcastle Sykes, pink.
Mrs. Henry Bell, apricot.
Mrs. W. King, rose.
Othello (Waved) maroon.
Paradise Ivory, ivory-pk.
Queen Victoria (Waved), pale primrose.
Senator (Waved), chocolate stripe.

Also 10 seeds each of **Pink Pearl,** pink; **Phenomenal,** blue, picotee edge; **Frank Dolby,** lavender; and **Helen Lewis,** salmon, gratis. **Price 5s. 6d., post free for cash.**

VILLA "B" COLLECTION.
24 choice varieties, a splendid range of colour for garden effect and cutting, 50 seeds of each as follows:

Agnes Eckford, pink.
A. J. Cook (slightly Waved), lavender.
Black Knight, maroon.
Captain of the Blues, blue.
Dorothy Eckford, white.
Frank Dolby (slightly Wv.), lavender.
Gladys Unwin (slightly waved), pink.
Helen Lewis, (Wvd.), slmn.
Mrs. Charles Mander (Wvd.), mauve.
Phenomenal (slightly Wv.), blue-picotee edge.
Miss Willmott, salmon.
Pink Pearl (slgtly. Wvd.), pink.
Helen Pierce, blue flake.
Henry Eckford, coral.
Horace Wright, dark blue.
James Grieve, cream.
King Edward VII., crim.
Lord Nelson, blue.
Luminosa, coral.
Mid Blue, blue.
Queen Alexandra, scarlt.
Queen of Spain, pink.
Sybil Eckford, cream.y-blush.
Venus Imp., creamy-pink.

Also 10 seeds each of **Mrs. Hardcastle Sykes** (Waved), pink; and **Countess Spencer** (Waved), pink, gratis. **Price 5s. 6d., post free for cash.**

EXHIBITORS' "D" COLLECTION.
12 charming **Giant Waved** varieties, splendid for exhibition or any purpose, 10 seeds of each, as follows:—

Asta Ohn, lavender.
Countess Spencer, pink.
Dodwell F. Browne, crimson.
Dorothy Tennant (Wd.).
Etta Dyke, white.
Evelyn Hemus, crmy. pk.
Flora Norton (Wv.), blue.
Mrs. W. King, rose.
Mrs. Hardcastle Sykes.
Mrs. Henry Bell, apricot.
Othello (Waved), maroon.
Paradise Ivory, ivory pink.

Also 10 seeds of each of **Cerise,** cerise; and **Helen Lewis,** salmon, gratis. **Price 2s. 9d., post free for cash.**

VILLA "C" COLLECTION.
12 choice varieties, suitable for garden effect and cutting, 50 seeds of each, as follows:—

Agnes Eckford, pink.
A. J. Cook (slightly Waved), lavender.
Black Knight (maroon).
Dorothy Eckford, white.
Frank Dolby (slightly Wv.), lavender.
Helen Lewis (Wd.) slmn.
Henry Eckford, coral.
Lord Nelson, blue.
Mrs. Collier, pale pmrose.
Phenomenal (sltly. Wv.), blue-picotee edge.
Pink Pearl (slgtly. Wvd.),
Queen Alexandra, scarlt

Also 5 seeds of each of **Countess Spencer** (Waved), pink; and **Mrs. Hardcastle Sykes** (Waved), pink, gratis. **Price 2s. 9d., post free for cash.**

HALF VILLA "B" COLLECTION.
24 choice varieties. The same as the **VILLA "B"** exactly, only 25 seeds of each variety. Also 5 seeds of each of **Mrs. Hardcastle Sykes** (Waved), pink, and **Countess Spencer** (Waved), pink, gratis. **Price 3s., post free for cash.**

VILLA "D" COLLECTION.
12 choice varieties. The same as the **VILLA "C"** exactly, only 25 seeds of each. Also 5 seeds of each of **Mrs. Hardcastle Sykes** (Wvd.), pink, and **Countess Spencer** (Wd.), pink, gratis **Price 1s 6d**

A specially written Booklet is sent FREE with every order, giving full details of culture, so that the greatest novice may attain success.

"I tried most of the growers last year, and did all I could to bring them all on. We had a great show. Mr. B., the Duke of L.'s Head Gardener, gave First to yours, and did you (and me) the honour of saying that 'he never saw finer.' They were the admiration of the whole county.—REV. F. G."

A VEGETABLE GARDEN FOR 6/6

Eckford's Ideal Collection of Vegetable Seeds. Carriage paid for Cash.

This Special Collection of Vegetable Seeds is put up for the purpose of letting everybody test for themselves ECKFORD'S PURE and HIGH-CLASS SEEDS. The quantities are sufficient for ordinary Gardens, Allotments, etc, and contain the following: Four half-pints of Eckford's Pedigree Culinary Peas for succession; half-pints each of Broad Beans, Dwarf French Beans and Scarlet Runners; and liberal packets of the following small Seeds: Beet, Borecole, Brocoli (three varieties—early, medium, and late), Brussels Sprouts, Early Cabbage, Pickling Cabbage, Savoy, Carrot, Early Cauliflower, Celery, Cress, Ridge Cucumber, Lettuce (two varieties), Mustard, Onions (two varieties), Parsley, Parsnip, Radish, Tomato, Garden Turnip, and Vegetable Marrow. The above are all excellent kinds—fine for exhibition. If pints of Peas and Beans are required instead of half-pints, the price of the Collection will be **9/-** carriage paid. *We include free a specially written Booklet on Vegetable Culture for the Amateur.* For places abroad, the Ideal Collection will be **8/6** and **11/-** respectively, post free for cash. **Will Customers kindly note that we cannot alter this Collection**

FREE: **Send a Post-card to-day for large illustrated and coloured Catalogue. It gives full particulars of all novelties in Sweet Peas for 1913, and contains full list of all Flower and Vegetable Seeds.**

HENRY ECKFORD, Sweet Pea Specialist (Dept. 83), **WEM, SHROPSHIRE.**

REACHING THE RENOVATION FUND.

WHY NELSON MIGHT HAVE WINKED.

By Fred Keir.

The Rev. Wiffly Jones rocked softly, but nevertheless the antiquated chair shrieked at every joint.

"When I get into a comfortable chair such as this, Mrs. Raven," he said, "I almost feel as though I could go on rocking for ever." And rapture beamed from his benignant countenance.

"It's only an old thing," replied Aunt Raven, deprecatingly, "I've used it now for over fifty years."

Mr. Jones glanced around the apartment, and his eye fell upon the old piano—an old, old instrument, with a feeble tone. He begged Aunt Raven's permission to play, and from its internal economy he conjured forth some semblance to "Edwinstone," and "The Old Hundredth."

Aunt Raven's turn had come to sit enraptured.

"What a delightful instrument," said the Rev. Mr. Jones. "You know, Mrs. Raven, they are making pianos nowadays with iron frames, and they do sound so dreadfully tinny. Give me a wooden frame of the old sort, for then you get a truly mellow tone."

Aunt Raven explained that since the death of Uncle John some thirty years ago, no one had used the old piano, but that Mr. Jones was certainly a most delightful player.

The reverend gentleman got his eye upon an oleograph fixed over the fireplace, and after scrutinising it very carefully, through his monocle, he uttered an exclamation of astonishment, and passed on to view the stained and faded steel engravings which also decorated the walls, being equally delighted with the merit of each one of them.

"Have you ever had your pictures valued, Mrs. Raven?" he asked.

The old lady smiled as she answered "Oh, no, Mr. Jones. They are only old things which have been on my walls since my dear John went home. You see, they help to preserve the wall-paper."

The reverend forefinger wagged in her direction, warningly.

"Ah, Mrs. Raven," he said, "now you are laughing at me. But, seriously, are you aware that you have a fortune in pictures upon your walls? This oil-painting (the oleograph) by an old Dutch master, is alone worth a very considerable sum, whilst these engravings are all most rare, and therefore extremely valuable."

There was a brief interval of silent introspection, and then the Rev. Mr. Jones broke forth again.

"Do you know," he said, "if I were in a position to set up a new house for myself, I should instruct my architect to come to see your home, Mrs. Raven, in order that he might pick up some useful hints."

It was a little square breakfast room, with an old-fashioned low ceiling. His eye took in the lowering rafters and the crowding walls.

"The modern idea is such a mistake," he continued. "Do you know, they are building houses nowadays with great rooms, and high ceilings, and when I am shown into one, I generally feel as though I were in a Town Hall without an audience; chilled by the many eddying draughts from all over the place, and altogether inconceivably lonely.

"Now, give me just such another room as this, for actual comfort; a room in which you can draw up to, and feel conscious of; a nice fire on a wintry night; and where your voice is not thrown back from a terrible roof, far above your head."

"I am so glad to hear you say so," replied Aunt Raven, "for I used to think that the ceiling was far too low. I am thinking of having it revarnished and restored—"

The reverend gentleman started as though his thoughts had been turned suddenly in another direction.

"Talking of restoration, Mrs. Raven, my fund for the chancel renovation—"

And the four-inch figure of Lord Nelson, standing heroically on the summit of a pyramid of guns piled above the clock-face beneath the glass case on the mantel, might possibly have winked, for Nelson also knew his way about.

TWO ARRESTS.

By Richard Morton.

I.

Arrest the First.

When it was decided by the authorities at New Ireland Yard to arrest a lady politician for inciting other ladies to commit deeds of violence, such as setting fire to a house, or blowing up another house with bombs, it was also decided that so delicate a matter could not be carried out too politely.

Such a gentle lady must not receive too sudden a shock; one who had such tenderness for the feelings of others deserved every little mark of consideration that the officers of justice could extend to her. It really hurt "the Yard" to approach her at all in such regrettable circumstances.

Two inspectors and three detective officers were told off to wait at the lady's door, mainly to keep away photographers and other inquisitive people. Only the courtly Superintendent went upstairs to the sitting-room.

"What! Am I arrested at last?"

"Oh, hush, madam! Let us not mention so harsh a word."

"Well, I dared you to do it. I suppose you will give me an hour to prepare?"

"Two hours, three hours, madam, if you wish. Believe me, I am entirely at your service. The motor-car shall await your convenience."

"Is it a good one?"

"The best in the service, madam, has been placed at your disposal. After we have called at the Yard—just a mere formal, ceremonial call—we propose inviting you to accompany us for a little trip into the country, to Guildford, for instance, if you care for the scenery of Surrey."

"Delighted, I'm sure."

"We shall travel cosily, and you shall regulate the pace. And we shall stop for lunch when and where you please. My one regret is that I must ask you, if convenient, to arrange for us to be at Guildford by three o'clock, for"—he coughed—"the Mayor has fixed that hour for your appointment."

"All right," said the lady, "I'll be ready to accompany you in an hour."

In almost a queenly manner she extended her hand to the Superintendent, who, bending low over it, was allowed to touch the tip of one finger with his lips.

II.

Arrest the Second.

"Sal Brown," said the detective, as he tapped a wretched-looking woman on the shoulder; "Sal Brown, you're wanted."

Sal Brown looked at him, startled, like a hunted thing.

"What for?" she asked.

"That little affair at Barnet, stealing a pair of sheets. I've got to take you there now."

"Let me go 'ome first. There's things——"

"Yes, I know there are, but you ain't going anywhere, except along o' me."

"I must go 'ome first. There's my old man——"

She started to break away. The detective grabbed her quick, and clicked the handcuffs on her.

"Now then, none of those games. Come along quiet, or it'll be the worse for you."

"To Barnet? 'Ow are we goin' to get there?"

"You're going by the Black Maria to the train, and then I'll buy you a nice third-class ticket and run you down in the luggage-van. Come along, *you!*"

"YE CANNOT ENTER NOW."

A QUESTION TO AN EALING VICAR.

Is it true that the Rev. J. J. Summerhayes, Vicar of St. John's, Ealing, refused to allow the *cortège* of a late Post Office worker to enter the Church, where the relatives wished to hold a service, on the ground that the deceased was not a Church worker and his wife did not attend the mothers' meeting? If this was not the reason, what *was* the dead man's offence?

"Bullets" the Simplest and Best Judged Competition.

Can you answer these questions?

Every man engaged in business ought to know the answers to these questions. DO YOU know them all?

YOU will probably find it quite easy to answer most of these questions, but unless you are a rare and brilliant exception you will find several others a good deal more difficult. Some of them, indeed, may be altogether beyond you.

And yet, you will agree, they are all questions that you might have to answer any day in your own business. So—if only out of curiosity—run through the list and see how many you can answer correctly.

20 Specimen Questions.

1. What is the exact purpose of a ledger?
2. What do these signs mean: "E. & O. E.," "F.A.S." & "G.A"?
3. How would you open a branch?
4. What is a consignment note?
5. Do you know how to organise a sale?
6. Do you understand office organisation?
7. What is the difference between sending goods on "consignment" and "on sale or return"?
8. How often by law must a factory be "limewashed"?
9. How and when is a judgment summons issued?
10. What is the cost of registering a limited company?
11. What is the rule about doubtful debts in assessing income tax?
12. Do you know how to take out a patent?
13. Must a receipt be in writing to be valid?
14. What exactly is a "special settlement"?
15. How and when can you claim for loss of an article sent by registered post?
16. What is the difference between a factor and a broker?
17. How would you draw up a selling scheme?
18. How does a secured creditor in bankruptcy abandon his security?
19. Is a seaside shopkeeper liable for rates in the winter when his shop is shut up?
20. How can you recover debts at court without the expense of a solicitor or collecting agency?

How Many Did You Answer?

Well, how have you come through this examination in business knowledge? You must not forget that the knowledge of these facts and of many other facts like them is absolutely necessary to you if you mean to succeed. If you are in business for yourself you know how useful you would find it to be able to answer any business problem that arose; if you are working for others you must realise that your employer will value you more highly if he knows he can go to you for information when he needs it.

And that is why the "Business Encyclopædia and Legal Adviser" is so valuable a work—because it contains information about every point in business life. With it by your side you can answer any question about business that is put to you. For instance, you can answer all the questions that you have just asked yourself. You will find the full purpose of a ledger in the article on Ledgers, Vol. III., page 294. Under "Abbreviations" you will find the meaning of every symbol and sign that is used in business to-day. The third question you will solve by looking up the fine article on the Basic Idea in Business, and so on with all the other questions; and, in fact, with any question about anything relating to business. Thus, in question 19, you will find in a moment that the shopkeeper is liable for rates for the whole time (see Vol. III., page 26).

How This Concerns You.

These questions may not arise in your business, but others do, and if you think it would mean anything to you to know at once what to say or do in every emergency, you should send the coupon below for a handsome illustrated book on Business, telling all about the "Business Encyclopædia" and giving the names of the successful business men who have written it. It also tells how any reader of JOHN BULL may obtain the complete work in seven volumes for a first payment of 1s. 6d. only, and pay the balance in small monthly payments. Sending the coupon commits you to nothing. Is such an opportunity one you should miss?

Written by Successful Business Men.

All the information you get from the "Business Encyclopædia" is up-to-date and reliable, for its contributors include many of the most successful business men of the day, among them being such famous men as Richard Burbidge (Managing-Director, Harrods Stores), S. F. Edge (the well-known Motor Expert), John Lawrie (Managing-Director William Whiteley, Ltd.), Sir Joseph Lyons (Managing-Director J. Lyons and Co., Ltd.), H. G. Selfridge (Founder of Selfridge's, Ltd.), Wareham Smith (Advertisement Director of the *Daily Mail*), Sir Thomas Dewar (Managing Director of J. Dewar and Sons), J. Murray Allison (Advertisement Manager of *The Times*), H. Simonis (Director of the *Daily News and Leader*), etc., etc.

TWO OPINIONS.

J. S. FRY & SONS, Ltd., write:—
"We strongly advise all commercial men to purchase the work. It is the work *par excellence* for every business man to possess."

Mr. L. C. HORSLEY, Cashier, Marlborough Road, Ipswich.
"I find it is of the greatest possible assistance to me in my work as cashier to one of the largest manufacturing companies in East Anglia. I am sorry there were not such valuable sources of information years ago. It would have saved me hours of work."

A FREE BOOK.

This Coupon entitles you to one free copy of the book describing the "Business Encyclopædia," but it must be sent at once. It tells all about the work and the specially low terms to readers of JOHN BULL.

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Please send me **one** complimentary copy of the book on the "Business Encyclopædia." I am a reader of JOHN BULL.

Name .....
(Send this form or a postcard.)

Address .....

.....

"Have you had any hail this morning?"
"Well, thank y' kindly, miss. I never takes it as early as this, but if it's all the same to you, me and my mate couldn't 'arf do with a rum an' milk."

HEARD IN THE TRAIN.

UNIVERSAL SERVICE.

1ST MECHANIC: Then w'y doncher join the Territorials?

2ND MECHANIC: Wot, them? Not me!

1ST MECHANIC: There you aw! Yer jore enuff erbout Lord Roberts, praisin' 'im up, an' that; but you haven't got the pluck ter join the Terriers even.

2ND MECHANIC: Pluck don't come in. They ain't no good. That's w'y I wouldn't join 'em. Universal Service or nuthink, I say. It'll 'ave to come some day. But the more fellers wot join the Territorials the longer it'll be put orf. That's w'y I wouldn't join—on princerple. The sooner the Territorials is smashed up the better it'll be fur the country. 'Cos somethink'll *'ave* to be done then.

1ST MECHANIC: Don' chew worry! There won't never be no Universal Service in England. The workin' claws won't 'ave it. W'y should they? We ain't got nothink to lose, not if the Germans wos to come an' take the blinkin' country.

2ND MECHANIC: Wot? Nothink to lose? Git out! Yer don't know wotcher torkin' erbout.

1ST MECHANIC: Don't I? Donchew make no errer. Wot 'ave you an' me gotter lose, I awsk yer?

2ND MECHANIC: You call yerself an Englishman, doncher? Ain't that somethink?

1ST MECHANIC: You're torkin' silly. I should still be an Englishman if the Germans wos to come, shouldn't I?

2ND MECHANIC: No; you'd 'ave to be a German.

1ST MECHANIC: 'Ow could I be a German w'en I wos born in Bow?

2ND MECHANIC: You'd 'ave to learn the langwidge. W'en they conquer a country they make the people wot they've conquered learn German, so's they'll fergit their own langwidge an' become proper Germans.

1ST MECHANIC: I'd like to see a blinkin' German tryin' to make me learn 'is blinkin' langwidge! I'd 'it 'im in the jore!

2ND MECHANIC: That's jest it. Then there'd be trouble. You'd 'ave the Kaiser down on you, an' you'd 'ave to go through it. But that ain't nothink. You'd 'ave to join the German Army.

1ST MECHANIC: *'Oo* would?

2ND MECHANIC: *You* would, mate. An' they'd send yer over to Germany to serve so's to stamp out your nachral patriotism.

1ST MECHANIC: Jew meanter say they'd make me join the German Army?

2ND MECHANIC: That's a fack; an' feed you on 'orse-flesh an' black bread.

1ST MECHANIC: But wot erbout me work?

2ND MECHANIC: You'd 'ave to leave that. You might git a job again w'en you'd served your term, but at less wages.

1ST MECHANIC: You're torkin' through your 'at! Wot erbout me Union? They'd see to that.

2ND MECHANIC: Union! W'y the Germans 'ud stamp out orl the Trade Unions first thing. An' they could do it. They could bring over millions of soljers to do it—rotten fore'gn soljers to drive you to work at the point of the bay'net. An' that's w'y we say, let's 'ave Universal Service for England, so's to keep the Germans out. 'Cos if they come we shall 'ave to join the German Army an' be bullied erbout by rotten German orficers. We shell 'ave to join one army or the other in any case, so I say lets 'ave Universal Service an' to 'ell with the Germans.

1ST MECHANIC: Blow'd if there ain't somethink in wot you say, mate. Ere we are! Guard, 'ere, ole son; jew believe in Universal Service?

GUARD: I believe you're drunk, if you awsk me. 'Urry up, there! Right, forward!

Our amazing prize offer—£7 a week for life and £1,250 cash! See page 427.

Try this Famous Cure for Greyness—FREE!

DISCOVERY WHICH RESTORES NATURAL COLOUR TO GREY AND WHITE HAIR WITHOUT THE USE OF DYES.

IMMENSELY IMPROVES YOUR APPEARANCE AND MAKES YOU LOOK YEARS YOUNGER.

Every reader whose hair is grey is given an opportunity to-day of trying a famous cure for Greyness—free of charge.

The discoverer of this new Greyness cure is Mr. Edwards, the Royal Hair Specialist, who founded Harlene "Hair-Drill," and his name alone is a guarantee of the efficacy of the new treatment.

But a further proof that "Astol for Grey Hair" does really restore the natural colour to hair which has become faded and discoloured lies in the experience of the thousands who have already tested it.

GREYNESS OF 15 YEARS' STANDING CURED.

"Astol has restored the colour to my hair perfectly," writes a lady who had been troubled with Greyness for 15 years. "There is not a grey hair in my head now. My hair is now exactly the same colour as it was 15 years ago, and it looks so light and glossy. I can never thank you enough."

"I have used Astol on my hair and moustache," writes a Major in the Army. "Both were formerly iron grey, but Astol has brought back all the lost colour, and my hair looks just the same as it was when I was a subaltern."

These are examples of similar letters which reach the Astol head-quarters daily from delighted users of this marvellous discovery, which you are now enabled to test for yourself free of cost.

THE MOST CONVINCING PROOF OF ALL.

Mr. Edwards recognises that the most convincing proof of all is the personal test.

He will, accordingly, send to every reader who forwards the coupon printed below the following free trial Astol treatment:—

THIS TRIAL PACKET IS SENT YOU FREE ON APPLICATION.

(1) A trial bottle of "Astol for Grey Hair" to prove to you its wonderful colour-restoring powers.

(2) A presentation copy of a book, "Good News for the Grey-Haired," which fully describes this discovery, shows you the best way of using it, and explains its wonderful dyeless action.

NOT A DYE.

As this book shows, and as the trial bottle of Astol proves, his discovery is entirely different from the artificial dyes with which many grey-haired people colour their hair from outside.

Astol, on the contrary, causes the hair to restore its own colour by its action upon the colour-forming cells of the hair-roots.

The function of these cells is to supply the hair with colour. Sometimes these cells become weak, fatigued and ill-nourished. Then it is that your hair loses its colour, and becomes grey.

What have you to do in such a case?

Why, apply Astol to your hair.

"Astol," by its special action on the pigment cells, causes them to re-supply your hair with its former colour.

Greyness and all hair-discoloration (even of many years' standing) vanishes as the result of this Astol-revivification of the dormant pigment-cells.

Your hair recovers all its lost colour, and you yourself look many years younger in consequence.

TAKES UP NO TIME.

A pleasing quality of Astol is that its application to your grey hair only takes two or three minutes. There is no lengthy and tiresome "painting" of your hair as with a dye.

Further, when Astol has restored your hair's colour, you will no longer need to use it every day, or even every other day, as you must do with dyed hair.

Just an occasional re-application every now and then is all that is required to remind the pigment-cells of their functions and to keep your hair in perfect colour.

CURES ALL FORMS OF GREYNESS.

Remember, too, that all forms of greyness and white hair are cured by Astol.

Hair which has lost its colour as the result of:—
—a sudden shock,
—worry and over-work,
—illness, or
—advancing years,
is quickly and permanently restored by Astol.

Even hair that has been weakened and partly spoiled by the use of dyes can be restored to its healthy, natural colour if the use of the dye is abandoned and Astol used instead.

Nor does it matter how long your hair has been grey—Astol cures the trouble, and brings back the lost colour in all its former depths, and in exactly its former shade.

Even if greyness has only just appeared in the form of a few grey hairs, amongst the others, use Astol, and prevent the trouble spreading.

MAKE THIS PERSONAL TEST TO-DAY.

As already stated, any lady or gentleman with grey or white hair (or hair that is becoming grey or white), is given an opportunity to-day of proving the wonderful powers of Astol, free of charge.

The usual way of obtaining Astol is in 2s. 9d. or 4s. 6d. bottles from any leading chemist or stores, or direct and post free from Edwards Harlene Co, 104, High Holborn, W.C.

To-day, however, by means of the following coupon, you can get Astol free.

Don't miss this opportunity, as it may never occur again.

Fill in your name and address below, and forward the coupon (with 2d. in stamps to pay the carriage of the Astol Trial Package) to the Edwards Harlene Co., 104, High Holborn, W.C.

Do this to-day and thus learn how to banish greyness from your hair, and make yourself look years younger by restoring your hair's natural colour without the use of unpleasant dyes.

"FOR CURING GREYNESS"—FREE COUPON.

To THE EDWARDS HARLENE CO.,
104, High Holborn, London, W.C.

DEAR SIRS,—I should like to prove the merits of the Astol method of restoring grey hair to its original colour—free of cost.

Please send the Free Trial Treatment (in plain, sealed wrapper) to the following address (2d. in stamps to pay carriage to any part of the world):—

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

JOHN BULL, March 22nd.

OPEN LETTERS, AND POSTCARDS.

To the Right Hon. H. H. Asquith, M.P.

DEAR PREMIER,—Allow me to compliment you upon the scrupulously correct tone of the Speech from the Throne and upon your discreet avoidance of certain questions calculated to cause trouble. You wisely make no reference to the Land question; while upon the matter of Woman's Suffrage you preserve an equally tactful silence, being careful not to irritate the ladies by any reference to male franchise reform. All this is quite as it should be. It must be most annoying to a Prime Minister to find his solemn pledges nullified by a ruling of the Speaker. You will see that it doesn't occur again, won't you? It looks so bad.

And the Speech further ignores anything of any real consequence. So the Party ought to hold together.

I notice, however, that you managed to get in a reference to "Education." I know what you mean! Good old Nonconformist conscience!

JOHN BULL.

To the Right Hon. Walter Runciman, M.P., President of the Board of Agriculture.

DEAR SIR,—I take this opportunity of welcoming you back to England after your Dutch tour, in which you have been studying the agricultural methods of that industrious people. It is not often that I am able to congratulate a Minister of the Crown upon doing anything so well calculated to further the interests of his Department, and I do so with the more pleasure seeing that yours is an office in which technical knowledge is of the highest value. I imagine you are now a competent authority upon all kinds of matters agricultural, from foot and mouth disease to maggots and potato blight.

I am sure you would now cut quite a creditable figure at a farmers' ordinary. No need for you to worry further. You are the man who knows, and can speak with authority. Good on you! Bravo!

JOHN BULL.

To the Chairman, Education Committee, Shrewsbury.

DEAR SIR,—Your Committee must be adorned with a more than ordinarily large number of wrong-headed persons or they would not have used their powers under the Education Act as they did in the case of the woman they summoned a few days ago for the non-attendance of her child at school. There was no pretence that either the mother or the child wished to evade the law. Indeed, pinned on the little girl's frock were no less than six school medals—trophies of her attendance and assiduity. Why, then, were she and her mother in this galley?

As you are aware, Sir, this child—intelligent, clean, and obviously well cared for—was sent away from school on November 12th suffering from scabies. Called before the Committee, on December 4th, the mother was told that unless a cure was effected within 14 days she would be summoned, and as, in spite of the official doctor's ointment, the child, when brought up for medical examination on January 29th, was still unable to go to school, the Attendance Officer was instructed to take proceedings before the Borough magistrates. I have not, I think, ever heard of a more unconscionable, more oppressive, more purposeless prosecution. "And so it comes to this," interposed the Clerk, when the doctor was giving evidence, "the mother is summoned for not curing the child." "That is so," confessed the witness.

The mother, who proudly told the Bench that she had four children at school, aged from 13 to 8, and that between them they had fourteen medals for good attendance, was not likely to tell a lie—and she swore that she had regularly applied the ointment. Thus, either the doctor's prescription, or the perversity of Nature, was alone to blame. One of the magistrates did not hesitate to add, when dismissing the case, that it "should never have been brought to Court." It was not a prosecution, but a persecution, and a Committee so stupid or so vindictive utterly unfit to have charge of public elementary education. You had better all clear out.

JOHN BULL.

To His Imperial Majesty, the Emperor of Germany.

SIRE,—I have read your flamboyant utterances on the occasion of the recent anniversary of the War of Liberation, and I have compared them with the calm and restrained references to foreign affairs contained in our own Speech from the Throne. Had any British Minister been guilty of speech like yours, the whole German Press would have thundered forth its denunciations. We in this country are not accustomed to excite ourselves unduly over your flashes of indiscretion. But we read, remember, and reflect.

But please do prate less of religion. It sickens plain men. Remember Napoleon's saying,—reading *Dreadnoughts* for "Battalions"—and have a care.

JOHN BULL

To the Right Hon. Sir Edward Grey, P.C., M.P., Foreign Office, Whitehall.

DEAR SIR EDWARD,—May I call your attention to the case of Arthur Robinson, a cotton spinner of Halifax, who recently suffered terrible indignities and hardships at the hands of the Spanish police? It is true that the man was fleeing from justice, but our law presumes innocence until guilt is proven, and a fugitive, surely, does not forfeit the right to be treated as a British citizen simply because a warrant is out for his arrest.

Yet it was stated at the Leeds Assizes that this man, after arrest by the Spanish authorities, was subjected to every form of indignity, being lodged in an indescribably filthy cell which actually communicated with a sewer and reeked all the time with the filthiest of odours. It was a wonder he ever left the noisome hole alive. When at last he was brought out for trans-shipment to England, he was marched through the streets with thumbscrews on his hands; these had been on long enough to bite right into the flesh.

The Spanish Government must know that we will not tolerate such maltreatment of a man of British blood, even though he may be under suspicion of crime. It is a monstrous thing that an untried man and a British subject should undergo punishment which, in this country, would be held too vile for the worst of felons.

I call upon you to convey to the Spanish Foreign Minister a due sense of our resentment and indignation. Don't be afraid.

JOHN BULL.

To the Directors of the Midland Railway Company.

GENTLEMEN,—Once more a dispute between yourselves and your employés has placed vital national interests in jeopardy. Fortunately, you have been able to avert the worst consequences of this unhappy rupture, and have arrived at an accommodation with the men, though only at the eleventh hour. I have given careful attention to the points in dispute, and I am bound to say that they appear to me to have been trivial in the extreme. Had you forced matters to the point of a strike you would have enjoyed scant sympathy from the commercial community, who in their daily business are helplessly dependent on the service you provide.

I warn you, gentlemen, that each recurrence of trouble between you and your servants merely focuses public attention upon the monopoly you enjoy, and hastens the day when the people of this country will demand that the transport services shall be publicly controlled in the interests of the community at large.

JOHN BULL.

To the Standing Joint Committee, Pembroke County Police.

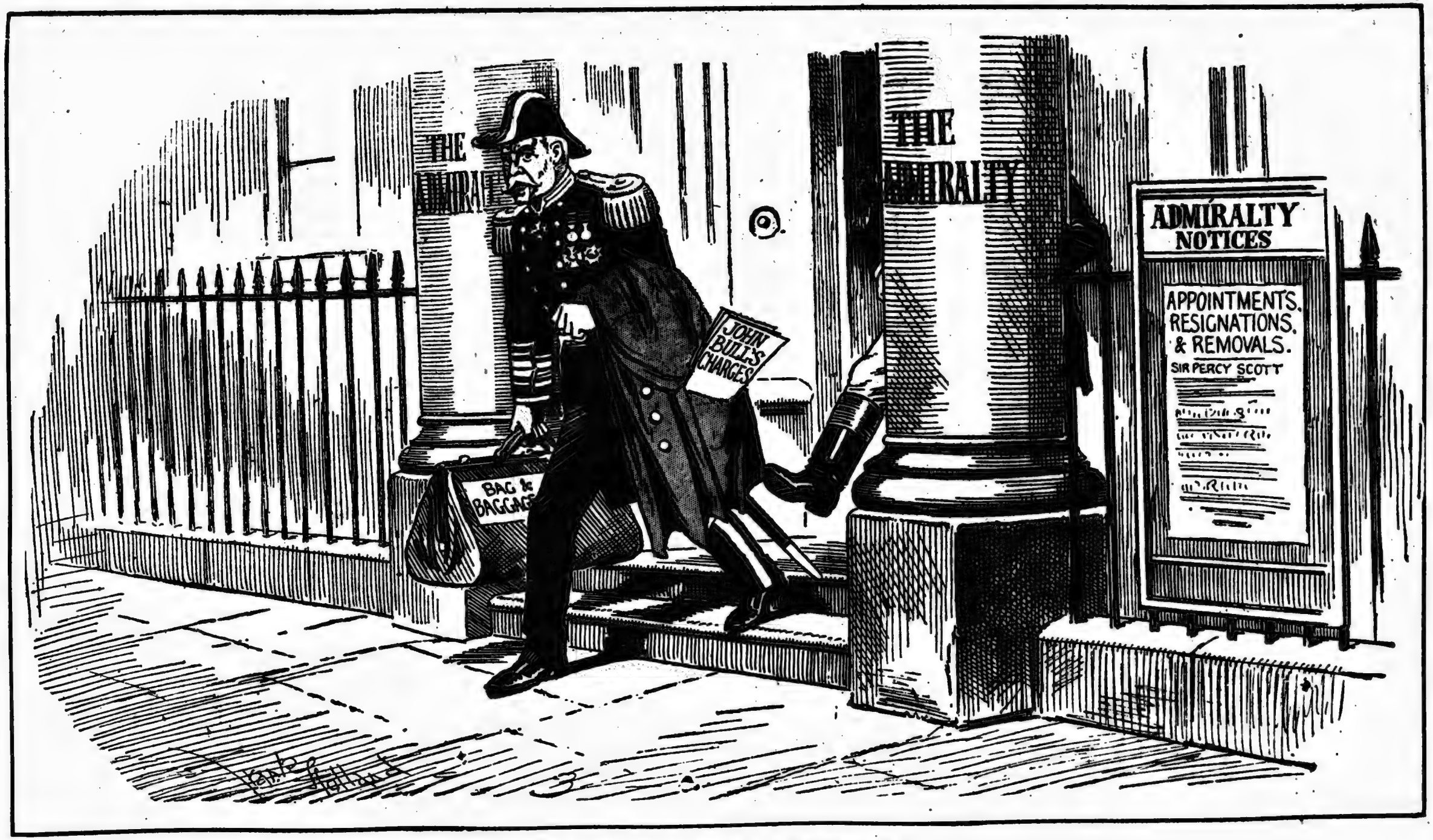
SIRS,—Are you aware that there is serious trouble brewing in your police force? If not, you would do well to make enquiries at once. Let me give you a hint as to the state of things. Some time ago you summarily dismissed a constable for keeping accounts in an irregular manner. This man had 20 years' service and good character. Whether you acted rightly or wrongly it is not for me to say. What I would draw your attention to is what is being said about other accounts kept by certain members of the force. Make enquiries and ascertain what is wrong. There is also a question of promotion jobbery. Wake up!

JOHN BULL.

"Bullet" THE STRAIGHT Competition—with most prizes.

"THE WAY OUT."

(Following the serious charges we have made against him, Admiral Sir Percy Scott has announced his immediate retirement from the Navy.)



SIR PERCY SCOTT "RETIRES."

IN THE CONSULTING ROOM OF DR. BULL.

By Walter Moore.

VIII.—SIR PERCY SCOTT.

Yes, yes; but who is he? . . . Did you ask for his card? . . . Said he preferred not to give his name? . . . H'm! . . . Oh, well; show him into the waiting-room and give him a copy of John Bull to read. Whoever he is, it will do him good.

* * *

Good evening. . . . Take a chair. . . . I understand you refused to give your name to the page. . . . I am not accustomed to interviewing patients who decline to disclose their identity, unless they convince me that they have very good reasons for preserving their *incognito*. . . . You are under a cloud? . . . I see. . . . Think that if I knew who you were it might prejudice my mind against you and hinder a true diagnosis of your case? . . . . My dear sir, physicians are not affected in that way. . . . They take a quite impersonal interest in their patients, whoever they may be. . . . you may rest easy on that score. . . . But I will not press you on the point. . . . Obviously, your nerves are already somewhat unsteady; I have no wish to increase their agitation. . . . Just sit quiet for a moment, and then describe your symptoms.

You have suffered so much discomfort of late that you have been compelled to resign your position and retire into private life? . . . Dear me, that's serious. . . . . You are comparatively a young man. . . . What would your age be? . . . Fifty-nine! You should be in your prime. . . . Now, this discomfort that you speak of—what form did it take? . . . Sudden uncontrollable flushings of the face? . . . . Yes. . . . The idea that you were being pointed at and whispered about by your subordinates? . . . Very unpleasant, I'm sure. . . . So you resigned your position in the—er—in the—er—*What* did you say was your profession? . . . Ah, yes; the Navy, to be sure. . . . Any other disturbing sensations? . . . A distressing sense of fulness? . . . Feel as if there was something sticking in your gullet? . . . Fear it's a growth? . . . No, no; you can let your mind rest easy on that score. . . . Your trouble, I fancy, is a rare form of mental dyspepsia, and we must see if we cannot trace the cause of it.

How long have you been in the Navy? . . . Forty-seven years! . . . Ah! . . . And what is your present rank? . . . Vice-Admiral? . . . Indeed! . . . Then you must be Sir Percy Scott, I take it. . . . Am I right, sir? . . . I thought so, I thought so. . . . Now, this knowledge will help me considerably in my diagnosis. . . . In the first place, I think it was a mistake to send you to sea. . . You are not the type. . . . The keen, salt air, instead of strengthening your constitution, *and* your character, appears to have had a somewhat injurious effect upon both. . . . It has given rise to a morbid activity of the spleen. . . . I have always thought that the notorious enmity that exists, and has been so painfully manifested, between yourself and Lord Charles Beresford, must have a pathological origin. . . . it is so unusual for two British sailors to fall out as you two fell out, and for one to pursue the other with the vindictive maliciousness that characterised your covert attacks upon Lord Charles, that I was confident some functional disorder must be at the bottom of it. . . . Now I see. . . . It is your spleen, sir. . . . Nothing but your spleen. . . .

As regards this lump in your gullet, you have recently been swallowing something that disagreed with you. . . . . Can you call anything to mind? . . . No? . . . Sure you haven't swallowed a prune stone, or an orange pip, or anything of that sort? . . . Then we must look for a mental cause. . . . I believe there have been some charges levelled against you in the pages of John Bull recently? . . . You say you ignored them? . . . No, sir; what you did, sir, was to *swallow* them, and *they have stuck in your gizzard!* . . . That's your trouble, sir. . . . I can do nothing for you. . . . Your case is beyond my skill. . . . You yourself have done the best for yourself in the circumstances by resigning your post. . . . But I doubt whether you will ever get rid of the lump in your throat that troubles you . . . . You must put up with the discomfort of what you swallowed . . . Good evening!

John Bull League Notes.

(By the General Secretary.)

Bristol.—The Colston Hall is one of the largest buildings of its kind in the United Kingdom—capable of accommodating upwards of 7,000 people. Yet, despite a drenching rain, it was packed on Friday last with a representative and most attentive audience, which came to hear the President—for he is well known and exceedingly popular in the city, having visited it on several previous occasions, and also taken an active part in the famous by-election contest, under the auspices of the League, eighteen months ago—when we gave Mr. Hobhouse such a fright. Mr. Bottomley was in quite his best form, and there can be no doubt that his address left a profound impression upon his hearers. After the meeting, the local Committee were entertained at a most enjoyable supper at the Lyndale Hotel, and it was announced that there had been a large accession of members, whilst the proceeds of the sale of tickets for reserved seats resulted in a substantial addition to the local funds. I should add that the popular Manchester Town Councillor, Mr. Ross Clyne, came specially to Bristol to occupy the chair.

Portsmouth.—Considerable interest is being manifested in Portsmouth and district in the forthcoming visit of the President, and I do not doubt that the Town Hall will be filled to its utmost capacity on the 28th inst. I shall arrive at the Central Hotel, Commercial Road, on the 24th, and shall be pleased to get in touch with any members and supporters. Tickets of admission, both ordinary and reserved, can be obtained from Mr. E. Rooms, of 405, Commercial Road. The proceeds of the sale of reserved seats will be devoted entirely to the local funds of the League. Hurry up and secure your seats!

Birmingham.—The local Branch have booked a number of first-class artistes for a smoking concert, to be held at "Ye Old Royal Hotel," Temple Row, on Thursday, April 17th. The Branch have a reputation for their social functions, and I am hoping to see a great attendance at the event. Immediately following the "smoker," a local campaign will be embarked upon, and a series of district meetings have been arranged. Further particulars from Mr. Norman Owen, The Primroses, Four Oaks.

Manchester.—The annual general meeting will be held on Thursday, April 3rd, at the Coal Exchange, Market Street. The chair will be taken at 8 p.m. by Councillor H. Ross Clyne, who will speak on the work of the League and matters of local interest. Members and intending members are particularly requested to attend.

Newcastle.—The President will again visit Newcastle on April 4th, and will all those who require tickets of admission please apply either to Mr. F. W. Johnson, of 3, Askew Road, West Gateshead-on-Tyne, or to Mr. S. S. Wherly, of 55, Clayton Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne, enclosing stamped and addressed envelope?

Hull.—The President will speak at the City Hall, Hull, on April 18th, and this preliminary notice is to ask all who desire to hear him to be sure and book the date. Write me at once for tickets.

Aberdeen.—The Branch annual general meeting was held on Thursday last in the Vegetarian Café, Broad Street, the Vice-President, Mr. C. R. Sibley, in the chair. The business of the meeting included the election of officers and committee. The report showed that during recent months the local membership had nearly doubled. Mr. Sibley, Mr. A. T. Fairweather and Mr. J. Ross were elected Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer respectively, and a strong working committee was formed. Mr. Ross's address is 69, Albury Road. The local Secretary is Mr. A. T. Fairweather, at 43, Wallfield Crescent, Aberdeen.

South Hackney.—This Branch took an active interest in the recent County Council election, giving its support to the two Independent candidates, who polled nearly two-thirds of the poll of the successful candidates, reducing the majority of the late senior member, who had supported the kill-joys on the last Council, by 2,000 votes, and frustrating the election of a particularly objectionable Puritan "Progressive."

The biggest thing ever done in Football competition. See page 427.

The Easter Ceremony.

Getting Married at Easter—means more ceremony getting the Furniture, unless you go right away to the right firm. It pays you to buy your Furniture from us because we give you very special facilities and terms.

To get the most you must give the most; putting this into practice has been our dominant aim, and the Furniture you may acquire, as a direct result of our advertising, will always fulfil your expectations. We give every customer of ours the most for his or her money it is possible to give, and no matter how large or small your esteemed order, we carry out the terms we offer in the right spirit and to the letter.

Special . . . . Bargains . . . . for Easter . . .

Purchasers of Furniture, either new or Second-hand, have every opportunity of furnishing a home throughout for Easter on the most economical lines possible with out being handicapped in their choice, and our showrooms should be visited by all who seek real bargains.

Bedroom Suite as illustrated, £12 12s.

SALE PRICES and EASY TERMS.

A combination which makes Furnishing during the next few weeks as inexpensive as it is easy. Although everything has been so enormously reduced, we are still offering the many advantages connected with our GRADUAL PAYMENT POLICY.

To the Manager, Hackney Furnishing Co., Ltd., London. Peterborough, 8th March, 1913.

Dear Sir,—I now write to acknowledge receipt of furniture I ordered, which arrived here about 1 p.m. on the 5th inst. I must congratulate you on the manner in which the goods were picked; there was only the washstand that received any damage, and that not worth speaking about. Both myself and wife are highly delighted with everything, and some items were far beyond my expectations. When one takes into consideration that I absolutely relied on your choice of all but two items, and then get what satisfies and pleases me, it speaks well for your management and straightforward dealings. I am that satisfied myself that I will recommend your firm without hesitation whenever the chance presents itself to me. You will find enclosed postal order, which please acknowledge. I am returning wrappers (18) by the Great Northern Railway on Monday. Again thanking you for your kind consideration, I am, Sir,

Yours truly, (Signed) R. S.

The original of this and hundreds of other testimonials can be seen at our Oxford Street Offices.

May we send you a copy of our Catalogue?

AN ADDITIONAL DISCOUNT OF 10 PER CENT. FOR CASH.

GENERAL TERMS.

£10	Worth	£0	6	0	per Month
20	,,	0	11	0	,,
30	,,	0	17	0	,,
40	,,	1	5	0	,,
50	,,	1	8	0	,,
100	,,	2	5	0	,,
200	,,	4	10	0	,,
500	,,	11	5	0	,,
1,000	,,	22	10	0	,,

We do not charge interest or require deposit. Country Customers' fares are paid on any order over £30. Every article purchased is very carefully packed and delivered to any required address free of all cost. Any Carpets or Linos bought will be laid free, and schemes for completely furnishing a house in various original and attractive styles will be submitted at your request. £10,000 of Secondhand Furniture always in stock.

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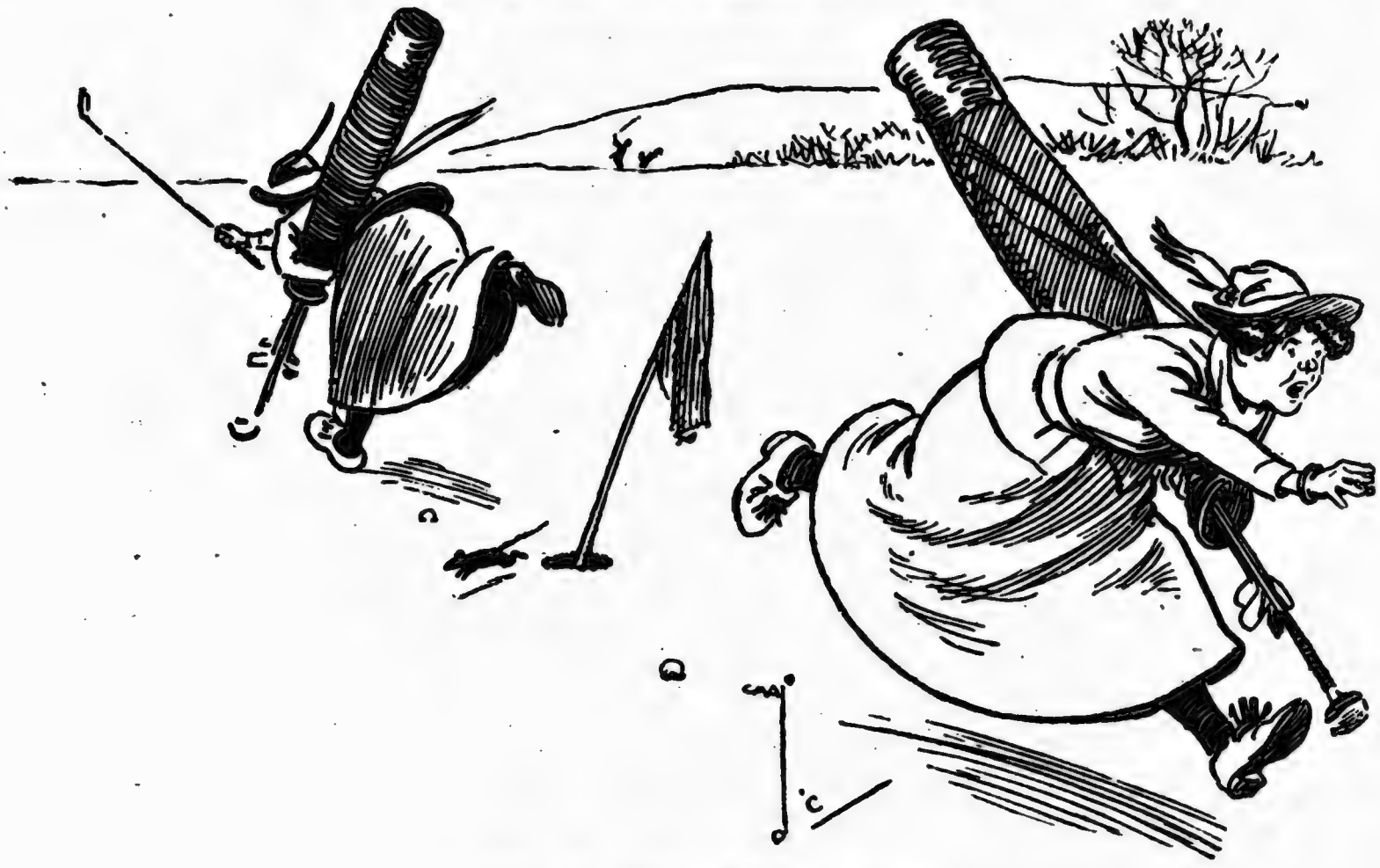
HOURS OF BUSINESS: Oxford Street—9 till 8; Saturdays 9 till 1 o'clock. Mare Street—9 till 9; Thursdays 9 till 1 o'clock.

GOLFING EXPRESSIONS—I.

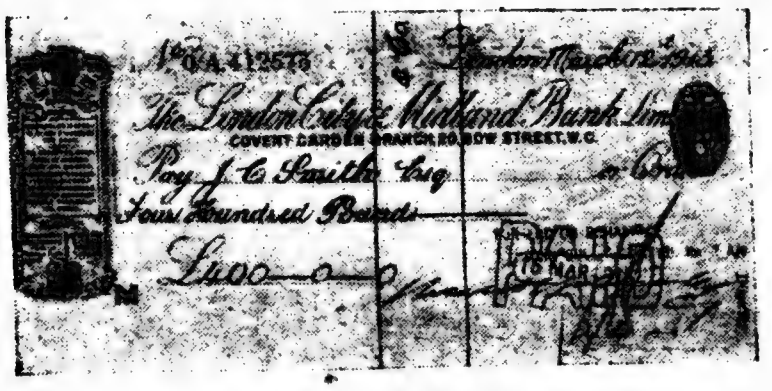


"ONE UP, AND TWO TO PLAY."

OUR 21ST "BULLETS" COMPETITION.

£400 PRIZE FOR OUR "MAJORITY" COMPETITION GOES TO A SUNDERLAND MAN.

Mr. J. C. Smith, the winner of the £400 first prize in our 21st "Bullets" Competition, is the popular tenant of the White Swan Hotel, High Street, Sunderland. His age is 32. When a youth he was a pupil teacher at Page Green and Bruce Grove Schools, Tottenham—his parents at present residing in the Winchester Road in that district—but for the last sixteen years he has been living at Sunderland. The one in which he so distinguished himself was the fourth competition for which he had entered; in each of


The London Colonial & Midland Bank Limited
COVENT GARDEN BRANCH 20 BOW STREET W.C.
Pay J. C. Smith Esq
Four Hundred Pounds
£400 0 0

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[As a rule, those who are criminally inclined bear pain extremely badly.—*Daily paper.*]

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Throughout my extensive career.
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I affected a cynical sneer,
Indulged in libations that made me feel tight
(Though my morals, *per contra*, were loose),
And recklessly gambled, and stayed out all night,
Till I rapidly went to the deuce.
I plighted my troth to three opulent wives,
Who fondly adored me until
I callously ended their innocent lives
With the aid of a poisonous pill.
I have forged and embezzled at various times,
And burgled in dexterous style,
And an accurate list of the whole of my crimes
Would take half a day to compile.
And now, as I languish perforce in the jail
Into which I've been brutally thrown,
I tearfully utter a heartrending wail
And an equally agonized moan.
Am I racked with remorse? Does my heart, as I brood
O'er a misspent and riotous youth, ache?
Well, no, not exactly. My lachrymose mood
Is induced by a slight touch of toothache!

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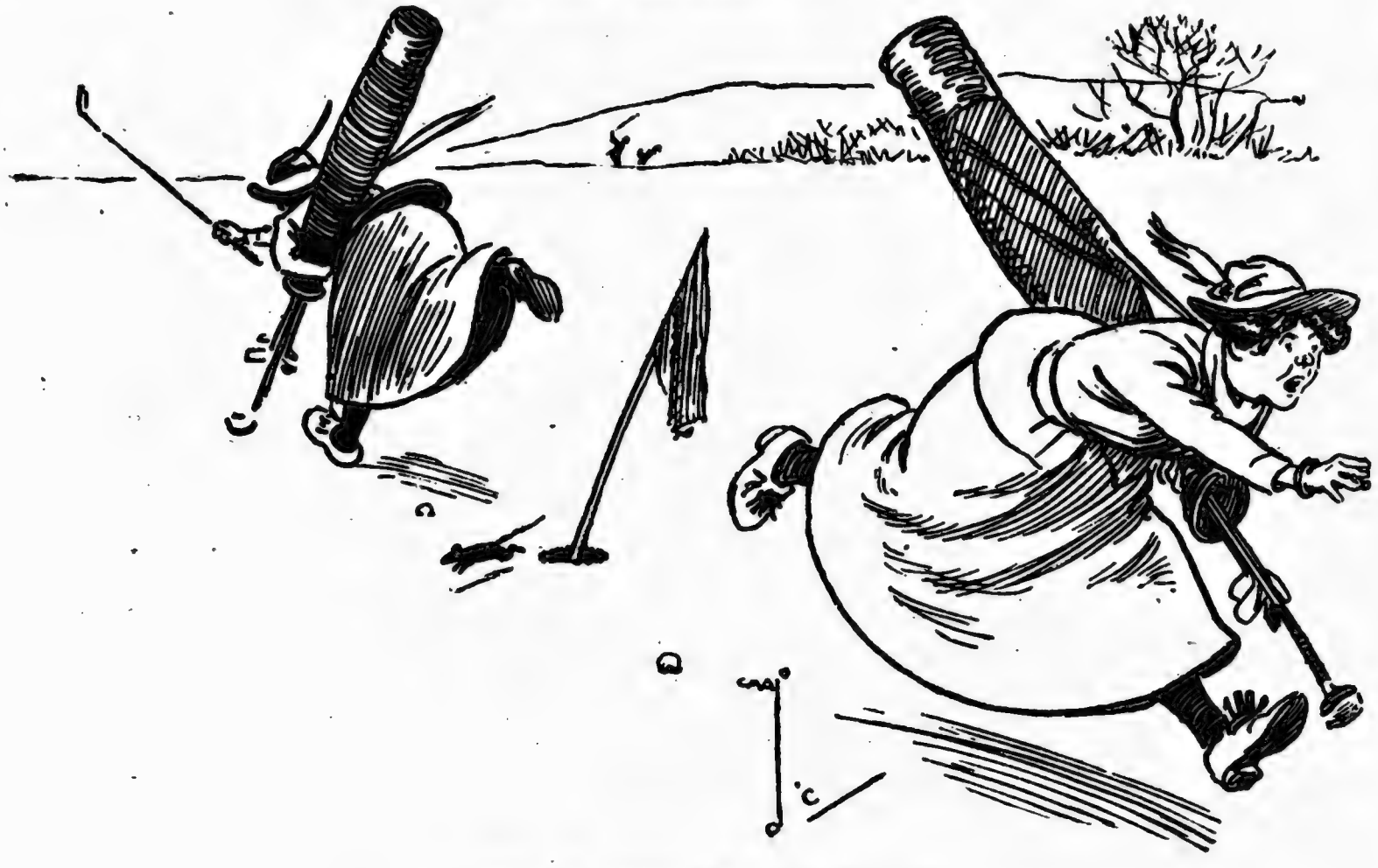

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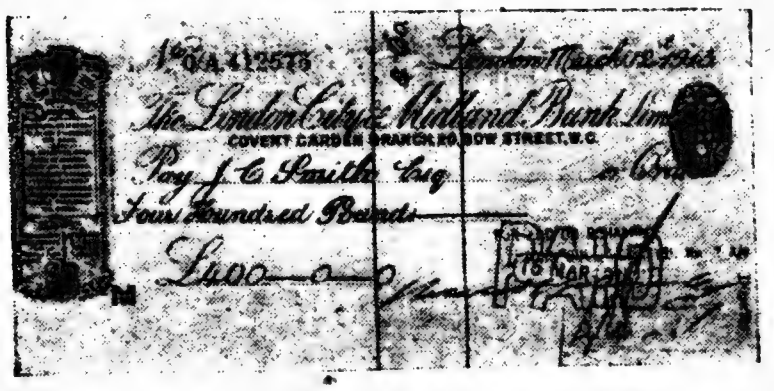

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John Bull's Letter Bag.

[The EDITOR replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when forwarding cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when writing regarding previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of ENQUIRIES *received consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag," and* ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST *will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc.*

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write name and address upon the back of their work. The Editor cannot accept any responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPE IS ATTACHED TO THE MANUSCRIPT. ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. *The most suitable lengths for articles and stories are about 750 words (one column), or 1,500 words (a page).*

The EDITOR *cannot express any opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.*

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., *as, though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be forwarded in the first instance.*

CORRESPONDENTS desiring INFORMATION *should place their questions in* CONCISE *form and refrain from sending* VOLUMINOUS DOCUMENTS, *at any rate, until asked for them. The Editor is quite unable to devote the time necessary for perusing and considering the scores of folios which correspondents sometimes send.*

For Financial and Insurance Replies, see page 431.
For Sporting Replies, see page 436.

"SCOTLAND" (Dumfries) and many others.—We are not responsible for the stupid condition of the Scots Law, and have reluctantly been compelled by the authorities to insert the usual notice about Scotch competitors.

A. W. (London).—We are too busy with our own competitions to trouble about those of any of our contemporaries—although we do think that the one you direct our attention to is somewhat thin.

R. W.—You have confused the late Captain Scott with Admiral Sir Percy Scott.

N. R. H. (Merritt, B.C.).—Thanks for your chatty and interesting letter. Always glad to hear from distant friends. We note that the main qualification for Canadian emigrants is "adaptability." And cash?

H. G. (Fulham).—Little occasion for you to excite yourself concerning the opinions of Sir John Collie (Wobbles). Nobody else does.

G. F. D. (Camberwell).—Over and over again we have explained that we are concerned with other people's religious doctrines only when those who profess or cant about them do not harmonise their own public conduct with them.

MRS. E. B. (Gillingham), whose brain appears to have been turned by the Mormons who recently polluted her town, writes to inform us that we are the Devil, "or rather manuplated by him." We can honestly assure Mrs. E. B. that we have never been "manuplated" in our life, either by the Devil or any other "distant potentate" (*à la* Plowden).

R. S. O. (Kingston), who is rather upset by our occasional references to Keir Hardie, whose history we happen to know something about, says: "Hardie believes that the way to 'International Pease' is not by building mor Dreadnoughts—but by building less. Is that not commonsense?" No; it's d——d nonsense!

R. B. G. (Stoke-on-Trent) writes: "Regarding the *Daily Sketch* Baby Scheme, do you consider they're genuine or not?" We cannot say without carefully examining the babies.

MRS. A. (Walthamstow).—Your inquiry should be addressed to *Mary Bull*, who, we have no doubt, will be happy to advise you.

E. L. B. (Devon).—Readers who have had dealings with W. Cooper, Limited, Old Kent Road, will be interested to know that this firm sent your goods when you acted on your solicitor's advice to report them to the police.

"NIL DESPERANDUM" (Sheffield).—JOHN BULL has no longer any connection with the publication you mention. The value of an American dollar is what you can get for it—nominally about 4s.

B. H. (Hackney).—Surely you do not hold us responsible for handbills inserted in our journal by local newsagents?

THE COMPENDIUM PUBLISHING CO., 329, High Holborn, wish to make it clear that they are in no way connected with the Overseas Compendium Company, of 59, Egerton Road, Blackpool, and 21, Cannon Street, Manchester. As the Holborn people publish a book, entitled "The Engineers', Architects' and Surveyors' Compendium (Colonial issue)," they are naturally desirous that no confusion should arise between their firm, which has been established 17 years, and the subject of our criticisms.

"ASUM" (Evesham).—The police authorities, not the Government, put a stop to the limerick competitions.

R. H. (Rugby).—We have often exposed Plant and Co., of 414, Stockport Road, Manchester. Their name is appropriate.

W. H. T. (Stockton-on-Tees) asks our opinion as to the value of the Pelman Memory Training System. We believe it is all right. Our memory, however, is naturally so reliable that we never have had to try it.

M. S. (Salford) asks us to communicate to our recent correspondent "R. J. N." (Chester)—who questioned the propriety of discussing "Women Suffrage" at St. Luke's Church, Weaste, Salford, on a Sunday morning—the glad news that those responsible for the debate consider their conduct to have been quite exemplary. For our own part we express no opinion, except to say that *unrated* places of public worship were not intended to be used for political purposes.

"CONSTANT READER" (Southwick).—We are positively sick of telling enquirers that Captain Walter Rand and his precious lucky stone are not worth twopenn'orth of gin.

"COIL" (Smethwick) is another correspondent to send a grumble about the Universal Electric Company, of Manchester. He says they owe him sevenpence change, but will neither send it nor reply to his letters. Shocking!

F. H. (London, S.E.) asks us how it is that most, if not all, of the reverend gentlemen we have occasion to pillory for immorality and other backsliding are members either of the Established Church or some Nonconformist sect, and why Roman Catholic priests so rarely come under our condemnation. We can only conclude that the Roman Catholic priestly sinners are either very scarce—or too clever to be found out.

A. N. (Forest Gate).—We do not see how one can blame the West Ham or any other general hospital for refusing to attend to slight accidents and trivial complaints now that all the workers are entitled to medical attendance by a panel doctor. Naturally they will lose a large measure of support, voluntarily given by those they formerly served, but we imagine their expenses will be considerably decreased.

L. H. (Westcliff-on-Sea), after describing what a disastrous effect the Insurance Act has had upon his fortunes and his future, finishes up by relating a rather amusing story of a woman whose baby swallowed a sixpence. After consulting two doctors, who declared they could do nothing for the child, she went to a third, who advised her to take the suffering infant to Lloyd George, "for," he said, "he can get money out of anybody"!

"MUSICUS" (Glasgow).—We have no information about the National Music Publishing Co., 132, Charing Cross Road, whom you allege invited you to submit music as long ago as September last and now refuse to answer all your enquiries with respect to it.

J. R. R. (Toronto).—The statement of the Pinkerton detective that though he has been in a good many cities he has "found none the size of Calgary which can compare with it in regard to girls living partly vicious lives" is noted. English girls thinking of emigrating to Canada now know one place it is wiser not to go to.

"GRIMSBY READER" (Grimsby) forgot to apply for a licence for his dog. He told a police officer who called that he had forgotten to take it out, but would do so next day, which he did. Shortly after, he received a letter from the Chief Constable stating that it had been reported that he had kept a dog without a licence, and that, if he admitted the offence and paid a "compromised fine" of 7s. 6d., no Police Court proceedings would be taken. This method of extortion is becoming very general, even in London itself, and we strongly deprecate it. When a person wilfully endeavours to evade the licence duty he should be summoned and heavily fined, but where the police are convinced—as in this case they admittedly were—that it was a mere oversight, it is dishonest to demand even a "compromised fine."

"LOOSE METHODS."—Anonymous letters are written only for our w. p. b. Send now your name and address, or for ever hold your peace.

This week £400 again offered for the best "Bullet."

"RIDDLE" (Dover) says that on every pensioner's identity paper, Army Form D446, it states: "In time of National emergency, when the National Reserve has been called out, pensioners are liable, up to the age of 50, to be called out for service in the United Kingdom." Our correspondent wants to know where the National Reserve comes in? He evidently knows very little of that force, or he would be aware that there is no age limit. When a man is no good for fighting, he can join the National Reserve and be buried with a Union Jack over his coffin—but, of course, the friends of the corpse will have to pay for the loan of the flag!

"REGT KOW" (Sheffield).—If you do not pay the judgment debt by the instalments ordered by the Court, you may be committed to prison for "contempt." Many Judges have peculiar fads, but it is difficult to believe that it is the custom in the Sheffield County Court for all evidence to be taken without administering the oath—it would be most irregular, and if you are sure of your facts you should write to the Lord Chancellor, and the Judge will get a steely reminder of his duties.

T. H. B. (Muswell Hill) complains that the Tottenham and Edmonton Gas Company refuses to supply him unless he leaves with them £2 as security for their account. Though they offer to pay him 4 per cent. on the amount, he demurs. We, however, think the Company's action is not unreasonable, as otherwise they would probably be frequently "had." As a matter of fact, however, they do supply some people without requiring a deposit.

MR. FRANCIS A. COX, Hon. Sec. of The National Equine Defence League, asks us to point out to our readers that, under the provisions of the Animals Act (1911), any person habitually and notoriously cruel to any animal may be deprived by the magistrates of the custody and use of such animal. We are glad to do this, and trust our readers will keep their eyes open for brutes of that character and lay the necessary information

J. Y. (Stockton-on-Tees) recently heard Mr. F. E. Smith speak at the Stockton Hippodrome, and in consequence of his strong advocacy of business methods of government, asks whether he has joined the John Bull League. We believe he has—under an assumed name!

P. M. (Hereford).—Rates are payable in advance. You have no defence, so pay up.

H. H. (Gorleston) tells us two tiny stone coffins have been unearthed at Peterborough, which are believed to contain the remains of Canute's twins. That relieves our anxiety. For years we have wondered what became of those twins, born into a callous world that knew no Maternity Benefit.

"TRIED" (Hastings).—Want of means is no defence to non-payment on a "Paternity Order," and the girl can continue to have you committed to prison if you do not pay, notwithstanding that you cannot find a situation. It is hard luck that the gaol is so far from your home, but surely you cannot expect the authorities to provide you with a carriage. Mind you don't get into any more mischief.

"A READER" (Crouch End).—We note that your application to the Rev. J. Cornec, of 141, Albany Street, Regent's Park, London, who advertises himself as "A Clergyman wishing to help fellow-sufferers," and who "offers to give, free of charge, an infallible recipe to rapidly and thoroughly cure Epilepsy," &c., resulted in the receipt of booklets puffing certain quack medicines called "Anti-Nervous" and "Mathesen," at 6s. per bottle, to be had only from E. Jozot and Co., of 59-61, New Oxford Street, W.C. We must keep our eye on both parties. These are probably the sort of medicines Shakespeare had in his mind when he wrote the well-known lines, "Throw physic to the dogs; I'll none of it."

L. C. (Kensington).—As your sister is anxious to avoid publicity, she should endeavour to get her husband to agree to a separation. Should he not do so, as he is in a good position she should instruct a solicitor to take divorce proceedings. She has ample grounds. Were he to leave the country it would be difficult to compel him to contribute towards the support of the child. It is a great mistake for English girls to marry foreigners.

"THRIFT" (London, N.) asks our opinion "as to whether a man with a tolerably safe income of £1,750 a year would be justified in renting a house at £130 a year and keeping a small motor-car." It would be a near thing, as there is always the question of police-court fines to be considered.

"NEW READER" (Huddersfield).—You are another foolish boy who has been induced to sign an agreement to purchase an expensive and useless set of books on the instalment system. As you are under twenty-one years of age, return them to the firm, and tell them that if they sue you will rely on infancy as a defence. Be wiser in future.

R. S. G. (Shettleston).—It is kind of you to take so much interest in our personality, and we thank you for your stimulant prophecy that we are "destined to play a prominent part in the history of our country."

J. T. (Ealing) has overcome the difficulty of obtaining 6d. postal orders, of which there appears to be a shortage all over the country, by persuading her complaisant husband to join her in the Bullets Competition, so that the account is made up to 1s. How admirable is the ingenuity of woman!

H. W. (Bath).—Apropos of our article some time back under the heading "A Black Preacher's Brown Baby," you must not think that because we slated the coloured scoundrel we are not equally down on immoral whites who leave piebald piccaninnies behind them in foreign parts. You could not have read us attentively; else you would not charge us with such an inconsistency.

H. M. (Bloomsbury).—You are quite at liberty to marry your first cousin, provided she is willing.

G. G. (Co. Durham).—We have already warned our readers against having any dealings with the Psycho Success Club, now of 262, Westminster Bridge Road. It is a Yankee swindle.

E. A. T. (S. Belgravia).—Advise your friend to have nothing whatever to do with H. B. Edwards, Clyde House, Hampton-on-Thames. It is the 2s. fee he is after.

A. L. (New North Road, N.) asks us, "very respectfully," to inform him what is our religion. Disraeli was once asked the same question. "The religion of every sensible man," he replied. "But what is that?" he was further asked. "No sensible man ever tells," he retorted.

P. R. L. (Alberta).—Glad you appreciate us. Your admiration *must* be warm when it induces you to sit down and write us with the thermometer 50 degrees below zero.

"A SUFFERER" (Nottingham).—As your husband was a passenger in the *Titanic* and lost his life in the historic wreck, you have a claim for compensation against the White Star Line. What you are offered by the Relief Committee need not prejudice that claim if you are very careful what papers you sign.

T. B. (Custom House) would like to know what amount of money the London Liberal morning papers and the London Unionist morning papers, respectively, have had to pay during the last 10 years in damages for political libels. We decline to give the required information, lest we ourselves should be had up for libel.

"OSCAR'S KETTLE" (Upper Norwood).—How to introduce your invention "in the cheapest and safest manner," the said invention being "an automatic safety railway door lock"? The first step is to search the records of the Patent Office as to whether your idea has or has not been already effectively covered by the patent of somebody else. If not, hand in your specification with your application for a patent to the Comptroller.

MRS. H. (Bethnal Green).—A hooligan is a footpad, loafer, and general street ruffian—or a Party politician.

MISS MONICA A-A. (Abbey Road, N.W.).—It was kind of you. Not always those who preach most about Christianity practise it.

F. B. L. (Hythe).—It is hereby noted that you also have had trouble to obtain the proper fulfilment of your prepaid orders by the Universal Electric Company, Brook Street, Manchester.

J. T. (Aberdeen).—Your letter would possibly prove interesting if we could read it.

F. C. (Paddington).—*What* sort of a Society? We cannot read some of your writing.

E. G. A. (Paddington).—If you have read your JOHN BULL carefully, you must have noticed that we are always warning people against sending money to alleged moneylenders who demand advance fees for considering applications made. Most of them don't want to lend you their money; they want you to give them yours.

J. E. E. (West Green).—We cannot undertake to inquire whether any particular firm is "reliable to do business with" if we know nothing against them. People must exercise the sense with which Providence is supposed to have endowed them.

R. B. A. (Baku).—To become a naturalized British subject, so far as the United Kingdom is concerned, a foreigner must prove residence in the British Isles during a period of at least five years, or have been in the service of the Crown for a like term. There is no shorter cut to the glorious privilege.

A. B. (Mill Hill).—Generally, a landlord can distrain for arrears of rent on the goods of the wife of a tenant, but if the things are settled on her for life, and afterwards to the children of the marriage, it is doubtful if he can, there being no High Court decision on the point yet. You had better leave it to some rich person to contest. If the tenant becomes bankrupt, the landlord can only distrain for six months' rent accrued due prior to the date of the order of adjudication, but he may prove under the bankruptcy for the surplus.

R. K. (Finchley, N.).—The only thing we can imagine the letters F.C.R.A. to mean is Finsbury Circus Ratting Association. If we are wrong we apologise.

(A large number of replies are held over.)

DON'T fail to enter our NEW Football Competition. Season closing.

Bull's Eyes.

JOHN BULL'S "EASTER EGGS":—
To the Kaiser—A look-up.
To Turkey—A little piece.
To the Suffragettes—A match.
To *Mary Bull*—The Glad Eye.
To Mr. John Roberts—A long rest.
To Mr. Pelissier—A pier-rot-age.
To Lord Newton—The straight tip.
To Mr. Lansbury—A window-pain.
To the Admiralty—An arch-way out.
To Mr. McKenna—A ticket of "leave."
To Miss Lenton—A penitential "fast."
To the Premier—A "cession" of work.
To M.P.'s.—A little time to themselves.
To Mr. Frank Tinney—A name for himself.
To Mr. Bonar Law—An "assurance" policy.
To Mr. Winston Churchill—A "trip" to Canada.
To Mr. Redmond—A "wait"-reducing device.
To Sir Thomas Lipton—A few extra "sales."
To Mr. John Burns—A "measure" of skimmed milk.
To Sir Percy Scott—The Noble Order of the Boot.
To Mr. Lloyd George—A reprint of the Doomsday Book.

* * *

MERELY RUMOURS:—
That the Budget of new plays will tax our patience severely.
That Sir Thomas Lipton's new yacht will be called *The Teasir.*
That Mr. Churchill's recent cruise will pour oil on the troubled waters.
That there will be no scenes when Turkey's Peace reaches the final stage.
That the Midland Directors found a double baulk after the ten-ton brake.
That Mr. Runciman returns from Holland with a little Dutch courage.
That the Government has purchased the Crystal Palace for a "First-class Hotel."
That the microbe *spring topsiturvious* will not disturb any household this year.
That, in view of the airship rivalry, the German Ambassador—Prince Lich-now-sky—is well named.

* * *

SOME TELEGRAPHIC ERRORS:—
Cancel joint bring home fool.
Mistletoe useless without Polly.
Excuse absence, wife has hold.
Missed train, hope to catch boot.
Detained—home to-morrow tight.
Send at once two dozen dancing plumps.
If pain no better apply a strong blaster.
Postpone meeting: in bed with broken keg.

* * *

Soda-water is to be dearer. That means less phiz, we suppose.

* * *

"Ploughing at Night," says a heading. No wild oats sown, we hope.

* * *

"Sovereigns for twopence," we read. But we give four hundred for sixpence.

* * *

Any fool can say, "I told you so." The wise keep silence—and the few extend the hand.

* * *

Stockings are being sold in Paris at £48 a pair. This is bowing to the golden calf with a vengeance.

* * *

"Canberra" is the name of Australia's new capital. We hasten to say that we can't bear a joke on this.

* * *

A cinematograph show was given to the prisoners in New South Wales. A pleasant way of passing their time.

* * *

Chicago Council has issued an order that any passenger strap-hanging need not pay a fare. So strap-hanging pays.

* * *

A workman who served for sixty-three years in a biscuit factory was late only once. He deserved the newspaper puff.

* * *

Chemists, says Professor Meldola, have not secured that full measure of recognition to which they are entitled. They want a bigger dose.

* * *

A gas company states that it removes sixty-five tons of coppers from slot meters annually. Evidently in the running for the light-weight championship.

* * *

Matthew Arnold thought Homer and Sophocles perfect, but found fault with Shakespeare. It's a pity we can't hear what Shakespeare thought of Matthew Arnold.

"Fight with Cheetah," says a heading. In the law courts?

* * *

"The Happy Island," at His Majesty's, will contain only one Tree.

* * *

The Times describes a new play as "bread-and-buttery." Too thin, or too thick?

* * *

Briery won a race at Hurst Park. Apparently the other horses couldn't hold it.

* * *

Tomato-red is to be the fashionable colour. But husband's blue will still be in vogue.

* * *

"Bird of Paradise hats," we read. The coal-scuttle shape suggested the other place.

* * *

An expert calls our air-craft "baby airships." But they get smaller as they grow up.

* * *

There is no life in Mummy wheat, we are told. But it is easy to find it in Mummy's corn.

* * *

"Make-believe in the City," reads a headline. More "promising" prospectuses, we suppose.

* * *

"Was Hamlet a fat man?" asks a contemporary. Most we have seen have been rather thin.

* * *

"Man has always lived by his wits," says *The Times.* No wonder some cannot make a living.

* * *

A course of lessons in the art of being happy is to be given in Paris. Married men specially invited.

* * *

The Croydon prisoner who escaped, only to be run over by a motor-'bus, found himself no better "off."

* * *

A letter in defence of the suffragettes is headed, "A word for the Militants." Is there one bad enough?

* * *

Mr. Taft admits that he was born with a silver spoon in his mouth. Will Mr. Roosevelt own up to a shovel in his?

* * *

"Votes for Women" has spread to Russia. That is just the place where they can take the necessary Steppes.

* * *

Fashion decrees that skirts are to be tighter than ever. Two feet, if they are ladies' feet, will make half-a-yard.

* * *

Mrs. McKenna is learning Welsh, but says it will be a long time before she can speak it. Mr. McKenna hopes it will.

* * *

Lord Lincolnshire says landlords often sow sovereigns and reap half-crowns. They don't get a "quid" pro-quo.

* * *

Sunday—before Church—Ragtime, Lagtime; in Church—Magtime—Bagtime; after Church—Fagtime—Nagtime.

* * *

A gardening note says, "It is difficult to find a reliable scarecrow." We should have thought the fashions just now would have supplied plenty.

* * *

A thousand and fifty new stars have been discovered by the Rev. J. E. Espin, Vicar of Tow Law, Durham. This runs Mr. George Edwardes pretty close and once more points to the connection between Church and Stage.

* * *

HUMBLE PETITIONS:—
That Karageorgevitch do Peter out.
That Earl Roberts be slapped on the back.
That death duties be assessed on Party Politics.
That the Kaiser do join the John Bull League.
That the German sausage be forthwith mashed.
That the Bulldog do most firmly hold to what it hath.
That Mrs. Grundy do wed the Rev. Stiggins.
That the millennium be deferred till the session after next.
That Panama politicians be restrained from talking through their hats.
That Admiral von Tirpitz do take his tongue out of his cheek.
That a bookmaker be deemed a human being; the same of a publican.
That His Majesty's Government do resolve to mind His Majesty's business.
That the national supply of humbug be sold at public auction for what it will fetch.
That members of Parliament do pay the public £400 a year for listening to their speeches.

Four distinct Pension and Cash prizes—£1,250 MUST BE WON! See page 427.

MAMMOTH OFFER — ALL RECORDS BROKEN!

FOR ALL FORECASTS CORRECT	FOR NEAREST FORECASTS SHORT OF FULL NUMBER	FOR NEXT HIGHEST CORRECT FORECASTS	FOR THE NEAREST LADY COMPETITOR
£7 A WEEK FOR LIFE	£750 CASH (MUST BE WON)	£400 CASH (MUST BE WON)	£100 CASH LADIES' PRIZE (MUST BE WON)

4 DISTINCT PRIZES | £1,250 MUST BE WON!

As the Football season 1912-13 is approaching its end, we have decided to set up a record. Accordingly we announce a new competition in which we offer **four distinct Pension and Cash Prizes** as above. No other journal of any kind at any time has ever made such an amazing prize offer.

All you have to do is to forecast the Results of the matches to be played on **Saturday, April 12th,** given on the entrance form to be found on the inside of our front cover. Draw your pen through the team you think will lose; if you predict a draw, do not cross out either team.

£400 in cash, as a further prize, will also be awarded to the sender of the *next* highest number of correct forecasts, and **£100 in cash** will be paid to the *lady* whose coupon gives more correct forecasts than that of any other lady competitor.

Thus even if the £7 a week for life is not won, and we shall be disappointed if it is not, we shall in **any event still award the £750, £400, and the £100.**

You can send in as many entries as you like, and any number may be enclosed in the same envelope. Friends can send their entries together in one envelope, but every coupon must be signed by the person making the forecast.

The £7 a week for Life will be paid to the Competitor sending us an entrance form containing correct forecasts of the matches given, *played to a finish,* EVEN IF THE NUMBER BE ONLY 10 OR 12.

Abandoned Matches make no Difference.

In the event of no entrance form being received giving the whole of the correct results, **£750 in cash** will, *in any event,* be paid to the competitor sending the most correct forecasts short of the full number.

NO GOALS REQUIRED.

£100 CASH FOR LADIES ONLY.

The RULES and **COUPON** will be found ON THE INSIDE of FRONT COVER.

LADIES' PRIZE.

Ladies are specially invited to enter. They have the same chance as men in winning one of the chief prizes, but in any event £100 will be paid to the lady sending most correct forecasts.

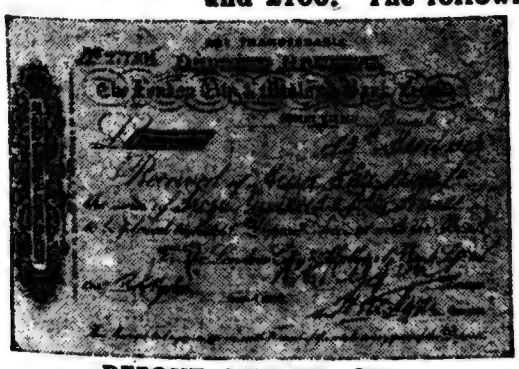
The competition is one of pure skill, and competitors should make a point of studying the football column of the daily papers.

Send in your Entries NOW.

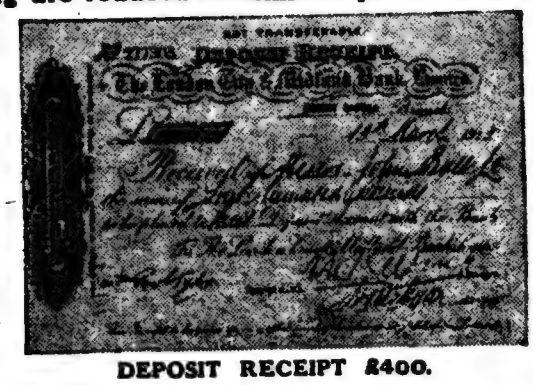
NO ENTRANCE FEES.

THE MONEY IS WAITING AT THE BANK FOR YOU.

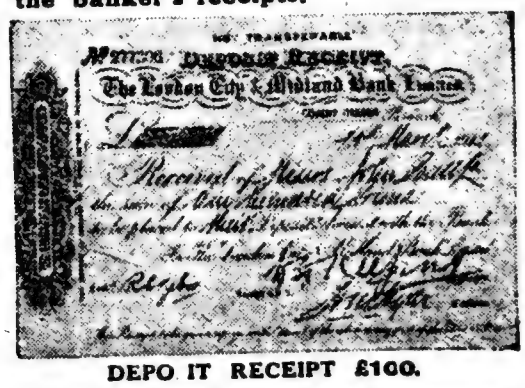
We have deposited with our Bankers the three separate cash sums of £750, £400, and £100. The following are reduced facsimile reproductions of the banker's receipts.



DEPOSIT RECEIPT £750.



DEPOSIT RECEIPT £400.



DEPOSIT RECEIPT £100.

THE BIGGEST THING EVER DONE IN FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS.

After you have filled up your entries for this competition, turn to page 434 where you will find particulars of "Bullets," a simple and attractive Competition which you should not fail to enter. A first prize of £400 in cash is offered this week, in addition to more than 5,000 cash and other prizes to the value of £1,720. But, for particulars of "JOHN BULL" Derby Sweepstake, you must write to "Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Geneva, Switzerland" (postage 2½d.).

CITY NOTES.

[*For Financial and Insurance Replies, see page* 430.]

The Stock Markets.

In view of the extravagant demands of the Balkan allies, it is to be hoped that the European powers will at once intervene, and make them conclude peace on reasonable terms. This trouble is now the only difficulty in the way of a general revival. The worst of the Berlin money scare is apparently over, although they may get another squeeze just before the end of the month. The Yankee Market is likely to be held back by the interference of the new Government, and by the difficulties to devise a workable scheme for the Pacific railroad dissolution. Home Rails look very promising, but the suicidal policy of the jobbers prevents speculation altogether. Kaffirs and Rhodesians are stagnant but prices are hardening. In the copper share market, Mount Elliotts have had a disastrous collapse to 5⅞, from which they are rallying somewhat, although a serious fire will prevent working in the mine for some three months. Our French neighbours are committed heavily in these shares. They originally put the price up, and they also appear to have had the earliest news which caused them to put it down again. Rio Tintos are awaiting the dividend announcement. Rubber shares are a little steadier, but very inactive, and there seems to be nothing in sight to cause a revival in these. Oil shares have their firmer spots, but the reconstructions of the North Caucasian and the Schibaieff Companies are so drastic that their shares have declined heavily, although, no doubt, the Shell Transport Company, who control these rearrangements, will benefit largely. There would appear to be an improvement ahead in the rest of the Oil Market.

Consolidated Oilfields of South Africa.

This undertaking, to which we have so frequently referred in these columns, and whose shares we have consistently recommended to our readers as one of the best speculative purchases in the oil market, will shortly be in a position to announce that active operations have commenced. As soon as it is conclusively proved, as we have little doubt will be the case, that oil exists in payable quantities, the shares will be introduced to the market and active dealings should then take place at a substantial premium. In the meantime we are in a position to announce that the opportunity of acquiring an interest in this most promising enterprize at par will not be available after the end of the present month.

Bucket Shop Tips.

In their circular dated the 8th inst. Dalrymple and Co., of 22, Chancery Lane (a convenient spot from which to operate on the Stock Exchange!), state that "there is not the slightest doubt that the quotation of Canadian Pacifics should be in the neighbourhood of 300 shortly." At the time of writing, the shares have fallen from 236, the price ruling when Dalrymple and Co's circular was issued, to 230¾, and as they urged the public to gamble in them for a rise by depositing 8s. a share with them at 236, the deposit would, long ago, have been forfeited. It is one of the most remarkable points about people of this class, that whilst in theory they pretend to be cock-sure that certain stocks will have an immediate rise, they offer to sell the stock to the public. And there are foolish people who don't tumble to the game!

Sir Charles B. Herne-Soame, Bart.

This retired solicitor, who specialises in the companies promoted by the notorious Edmund Eaton, is at the moment expending his energies in circularising the world at large recommending the purchase of shares in Suddine, Limited, which is supposed to be housed, together with its sponsor, at 115-117, Cannon Street, E.C. We have found it somewhat difficult to trace the noble baronet to his lair, but believe that his and the company's quarters are located close to those of the housekeeper of the premises. It would be well, not only in this case, but whenever people are addressed by circulars from share-touts, to visit the addresses given, and this would in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred prevent them from throwing their money away.

Where was F. S. Gray?

Frank Sherwood Gray, who has lately become notorious with his literature puffing shares in the Radium Ore Mines, Ltd., did not obtrude himself upon the shareholders assembled at the recent Statutory General Meeting of the Société Industrielle du Radium, Ltd., over which Professor Jacques Danne presided, although *his* speech had to be read by the Secretary. Indeed, if we may trust the published reports of the proceedings, Gray's name was not even mentioned on this occasion. We learn from the Chairman's "speech" that the company holds its property from the South Terras Mines, Ltd., which was exploited by Gray a few weeks ago, and to which we referred in our columns at the time. The South Terras Mines, Ltd. sprang from the Radium Ore Mines, Ltd., and the latter from another concern, all formed within a few weeks of each other. It is somewhat difficult to follow these undertakings, which appear to be born only to die in giving birth to others. The company, it was stated, would most probably sell bottled radium water. We don't know about the radium, but it should have no difficulty in filling tanks—let alone bottles—with water, seeing that the mine is filled with the latter to within four feet of the surface!

An Impudent Scotch Issue.

We have before us the prospectus of A. and R. Scott, Ltd., who appear to be engaged in the oat and porridge trade in Midlothian, and who, emulating the famous Midlothian campaign of the "G.O.M.," are now exploiting their "M.O.F." food by means of an impudent issue of 40,000 £1 preference shares, on the top of 10,000 already issued, and of 25,000 "ordinary." The prospectus is one of the most misleading we have come across for a long time, and we make no apology for setting out in full the remarkable certificate of the auditors:—

Glasgow, 12th February, 1913.

Messrs. A. and R. Scott, Ltd., Colinton.

Gentlemen,—As requested by you, we have made a special examination of the Books and Accounts of your Company for the past three years, and have to report that during that period the increase in the total sales has been marked and substantial. Compared with 1910, 1911 showed an increase of 34 per cent., and 1912, 119·7 per cent. The figures for 1912 similarly show an increase of 64 per cent. over those of 1911. The increase has been satisfactorily maintained for the three months ending 30th November last, as compared with the corresponding three months of 1910, the percentage being 132.7, while 1911 is better than 1910 by 89 per cent.

Since the Capital of the Company was increased and divided into two classes in 1910 the average net annual profits available for distribution as dividend, after meeting all outgoings, including a reasonable provision for depreciation on plant and buildings, showed the dividend on the outstanding preference share capital covered three times over.

Yours truly,
(Signed) Copeland and Allan, C.A.,
Auditors.

Now, stripped of all verbiage and decimals, what the auditors really say, and what the directors ought to have made clear, is that during the past two years the profits have been equal to three times the amount to pay 6 per cent. upon £10,000 of issued preference shares—that is to say, three times £600, or £1,800. And now the directors are issuing £40,000 more preference stock, which will require £2,400 for its service, towards which they have at present only £1,200, or just half the requisite amount available! Apart from the Most Objectionable Form (M.O.F.!) of the auditors' certificate, the whole prospectus is a perfect specimen of the art of *suppressio veri*, and we advise any of our readers who may have applied for shares to demand their money back, and, in the meantime, to decline to pay any further calls. We notice, by the way, that the chairman of the Company is Mr. John Lauder, and that Andrew Scott Lauder and Richard Dalrymple Lauder are joint managing directors. Where is Harry?

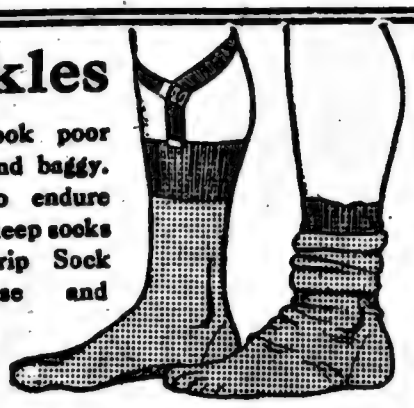
Industrial Debit System.

One of the superintendents of the Refuge Assurance Company writes taking to task our correspondent who gave an illustration of the hardship inflicted upon agents working under what is known as the "Debit System," and asks our contributor to state a case in support of his assertion, and name the Company or Society that demands back from the agent all the commission and bonuses he has received in the course of twelve years if the policy then lapses. Perhaps this superintendent will himself send us an actual example of what "making good" degrees of debit means to the agent whose business lapses and in respect of which "times down" have been paid. Such an illustration would be interesting to readers interested in the subject of Industrial Life Assurance.

Four distinct Pension and Cash Prizes.—£1,250 MUST BE WON! See page 427.

Neat Ankles

The nicest socks look poor when they are loose and baggy. There is no need to endure chafing and pinching to keep socks up well. Walker Grip Sock Suspender gives ease and freedom; goes on in a jiffy (no cords, no pulleys) and *stays up*.



1/- **WALKER GRIP SOCK SUSPENDER** 2/6

OF ALL HOSIERS.

Good times at Home are always possible with one of **Riley's Billiard Tables.** in the house. Billiards is a family game—skill is easily and quickly acquired and on Riley's Miniature Billiard Tables, which fit on your own Dining Table, just the same accurate game is obtainable as on a full size table. Prices from £3/7/6. The popular size is **6ft. 4in. at £5/5/0** Riley's Combine Billiard and Dining Tables from £13/10 to £32. Prices include all accessories Carriage paid to nearest railway station in the United Kingdom. Cash or Easy Payments.

FREE *on receipt of postcard, full detailed Illustrated Catalogue of Billiard and Dining Tables.*

E. J. RILEY, LTD., Imperial Mills, ACCRINGTON.

London Showrooms: 14, Aldersgate Street, E.C.

Dover

1¼ INCHES HIGH

Recently added to the

ARROW COLLAR

Styles—a comfortable and rather smart collar of conservative lines.

7d. each, 2 for 1/-

Write Cluett, Peabody & Co., 12 New Union Street, Moor Lane, London, E.C., for free Style Book. Every hosier can obtain Arrow Collars for you at the fixed price of 7d. each, 2 for a shilling. Should yours decline to do so, we will have them sent direct by post.

The "Diamond" Seven for 1912

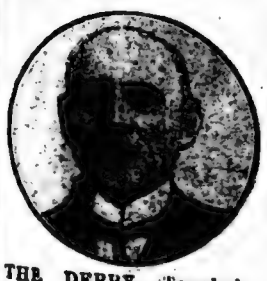
GRAND NATIONAL (Jerry M)—BEN AINLEY, 10, Hamilton Street, Old Trafford, Manchester, £500

THE LEGER (Tracery)—F. SMITH, 241, High Street, Porth, Glam. £500

CAMBRIDGESHIRE (Adam Bede)—W. H. BLACKSHAW, The Lea, Denham, Bucks. £500

CESAREWITCH (Warlingham)—H. COLCHIN, Junr., Woolpack, Iwade, Sittingbourne, Kent, £500

STEWARD'S CUP (Golden Rod)—T. PHILLIPS, 34, The Park, Treharris, Glam. £500



THE DERBY (Tagalie)—W. H. COWDERY, The Foresters' Arms, Coxgreen, near Maidenhead, Berks £500

The Editor of "JOHN BULL" on Feb. 1st stated:—

"We have many times expressed satisfaction with Mr. H. Diamond's methods, and can assure our readers that from beginning to end each sweep promoted by him is absolutely straight, square and above-board."

NOVEMBER HANDICAP (Wagstaff) — A. B. WYATT, 3, Palmer Road, Enfield, Middx. £500

The Only Address is—

H. DIAMOND, LUCERNE, SWITZERLAND.

Letters 2½d. **Postcards 1d.**

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL AND INSURANCE LETTER-BOX.

Letters containing enquiries must be addressed to the City Editor, John Bull, 52, New Broad Street, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.

A Postal Order for 1s. must accompany each Financial or Insurance Enquiry.

Consolidated Oil Fields of South Africa.—F. W. D. (Blairgowrie).—You must be quite a new reader of this journal if you have to ask us whether we recommend a purchase of Consolidated Oil Fields of South Africa. We have frequently expressed the opinion that these shares are the pick of the Oil Market at the present price, namely par, for the £1 shares.——B. W. L. (Southampton).—We understand that no steps will be taken to create an active market until after boring operations have been commenced.

Oil and General Share Exchange.—Blake (West Bromwich).—We understand your purchase was for Special Settlement, but no doubt delivery could be expedited if specially desired.

Harrod's Stores.—Enlightened.—You were quite right not to apply, and you should insist upon answers to the questions we have raised. In our opinion there has been some very dubious finance in connection with the acquisition of the new properties.

Oil Investment.—S. G. (Kingsland).—Our recommendation is Consolidated Oil Fields of South Africa. You may obtain full particulars from the South African Petroleum Exploration Syndicate, 80, Coleman Street, E.C.

Premium Bonds.—Tavistock.—As your Bonds have not been drawn either with a prize or at par, we should think the offer you have received a fair one, but advise you not to sell at the moment.

Galician Standard Oil Mining Co.—L. W. T. T. (Coventry), C. S. (Waltham Cross), and M. A. (Coatbridge).—We regard the shares as an attractive purchase.

Oil Purchase.—Novice.—We should certainly prefer Consolidated Oil Fields of South Africa, in reference to which you can obtain full particulars from the South African Petroleum Exploration Syndicate, 80, Coleman Street, London, E.C.

Lottery.—C. G. (Ringwood).—The lottery itself is quite genuine, but we know nothing for or against the firm of agents you mention.

West African Trawling and Trading Co.—Mrs. E. M. (Port Talbot).—Press for your certificate, and, if you do not receive it, let us know. In any case, you have made a very bad purchase.

Kempshall Tyre Co.—R. C. S. (Bournemouth).—In ordinary circumstances the calls must be paid. But before paying any more money the directors should issue a statement, giving some information as to the position and prospects of the concern. The fact that no prospectus was published at the time of the issue enshrouds the whole concern in mystery, and the least the directors can do is to throw some light upon the position.

Shipping Companies.—Tumble.—When you go in for speculation you must be prepared to stand the racket, and we can hardly see how your abuse is justified. The shipping market fluctuates so much that it is impossible to forecast the future with any degree of certainty. At present freights are on the down grade, and, while it is a big pill to swallow, you would perhaps do well to accept the price in question in order to avoid the possibility of futher loss.

Sandow's Cocoa.—Dumb-bells.—The competition in the cocoa trade is so keen that it might perhaps be as well to sell the shares, even at the present price.

Mexican Mine.—Old Sailor.—All things Mexican are under a cloud, owing to the troubles in that country, and, of course, the mines are also affected. No option but to hold the shares in question, but do not buy any more.

Consols; L.C.C.—O. S. (Dalston).—We should not advise you to sell out after the fall, which has been brought about by the monetary stringency and by the competition of new issues. Better await an improvement, which is probable next week, and then realise, placing the proceeds into Colonial Government Bonds, which are almost of equal status, and offer distinctly better returns.

Kwaloe Rubber Estates.—Dot (Liverpool).—There is practically no market for these rubber shares, and in any case you would have to sell them at a considerable sacrifice. Information concerning the Company is very scanty, but, as so far known, tapping is expected to commence in March, 1914. The secretaries and offices are Messrs. J. A. Henderson and Co., Ltd., East India Avenue, London, E.C., and perhaps they will be able to tell you something as to the position and prospects.

Blind Pool.—H. T. (Haslingden).—This is another variation of the old "blind pool" trick. We are afraid that you must make up your mind to the loss of your money, and, in future, take no notice of these flamboyant circulars from so-called "stockbrokers."

Arizona Mine.—T. H. S. (Cardiff).—Your misgivings with regard to the Boise King Placers Company are justified, and we do not recommend purchases of the shares. There is no market in them.

Alsing and Co.—Enquirer.—No recent information is available, but if this meets the eye of the secretary, Mr. Jelley, he might give us some information with regard to the present position for the benefit of yourself and other shareholders. The annual meetings are usually held in May.

Anglo-Dutch Trading.—Regina.—You should have made your enquiries before purchasing the shares. No information is available here as regards this concern.

Bissagos Oil, Palm and Cotton Plantations.—J. M. A. (Rushden).—Have nothing to do with this proposal, or you might make yourself liable for much more than 6d. per share. In any case, it would only be throwing more good money after bad, and you had best cut your loss.

Gresham Life Assurance Society.—C. W. D. (Hampstead).—A sound office whose rates will compare favourably with the other you mention, whilst possessing the advantage of being an English Company.

National Health Insurance.—L. J.—We assume you are a lay preacher, and in that event you are excepted from being insured. If you desire to become a voluntary contributor you may submit a question to the National Health Insurance Commissioners upon Form X4, obtainable at any post-office.

Pearl Life Assurance Co.—Bullite.—The first policy is on the "life of another," and is legal, notwithstanding the absence of knowledge on the part of your mother, whose life is insured. The second policy is issued in the name of your mother direct, although you assert she did not sign the proposal form and is ignorant of the assurance having been effected. If you are paying the premiums on the second policy, you are contributing to an instrument which does not give you a legal title to the sum assured, and we are of opinion that you could recover the premiums.——Mrs. F. (Musselburgh).—You insured the life of your brother in October, 1911, for £12 5s. at a weekly premium of 2½d. The premium was regularly paid, and on March 4 last the receipt-book was cleared of all arrears. Your brother died on March 6. You held a policy previously, which was allowed to lapse. You rejoined on the promise of the agent that he would give you full benefit. We presume by this you mean "immediate benefit." The agent apparently had no right to give this undertaking, as the policy is not so endorsed. According to Condition 7, one-fourth only of the sum assured is payable should the assured die within three calendar months; after three and within six calendar months one-half; but if death takes place after six months from the date of the policy the full sum assured becomes payable. Your brother having failed to survive the first six months, the Company is liable only to pay one-half of the £12 5s., namely, £6 2s. 6d. You inform us, however, that the claim has not been paid owing to the cause of death as certified in the certificate. You say that when the policy was applied for your brother was quite healthy and working, and that they "sent a man to see him." Unless there are other facts not disclosed in your statement which would justify the rejection of this claim, we are of opinion that the Company is liable. Write the Head Office and let us know how you get on.

Two Companies.—New Year.—You are in error in assuming that the National Standard has ceased to exist. As regards the attitude the Royal Co-operative Collecting Society has assumed in relation to your claim, consult a local solicitor.

National Old Age Pension Trust.—S. T. L. (Hove).—This concern is in the hands of a Receiver under an order of the Court. His address is: Mr. E. C. Pegler, 61, Watling Street, London, E.C., and you should communicate with him respecting the member who is in poor circumstances and who, you say, has been contributing for a "double benefit" for the past six years.

London and North-Western Railway Insurance Society.—Jerry M.—As an old member, having joined in the year 1872, during which period the contribution has been regularly paid, and no claim having been made by you on the funds of the Society, we find no justification for their refusal to pay you the £30 under rule 8. Make a demand for this payment through a local solicitor.

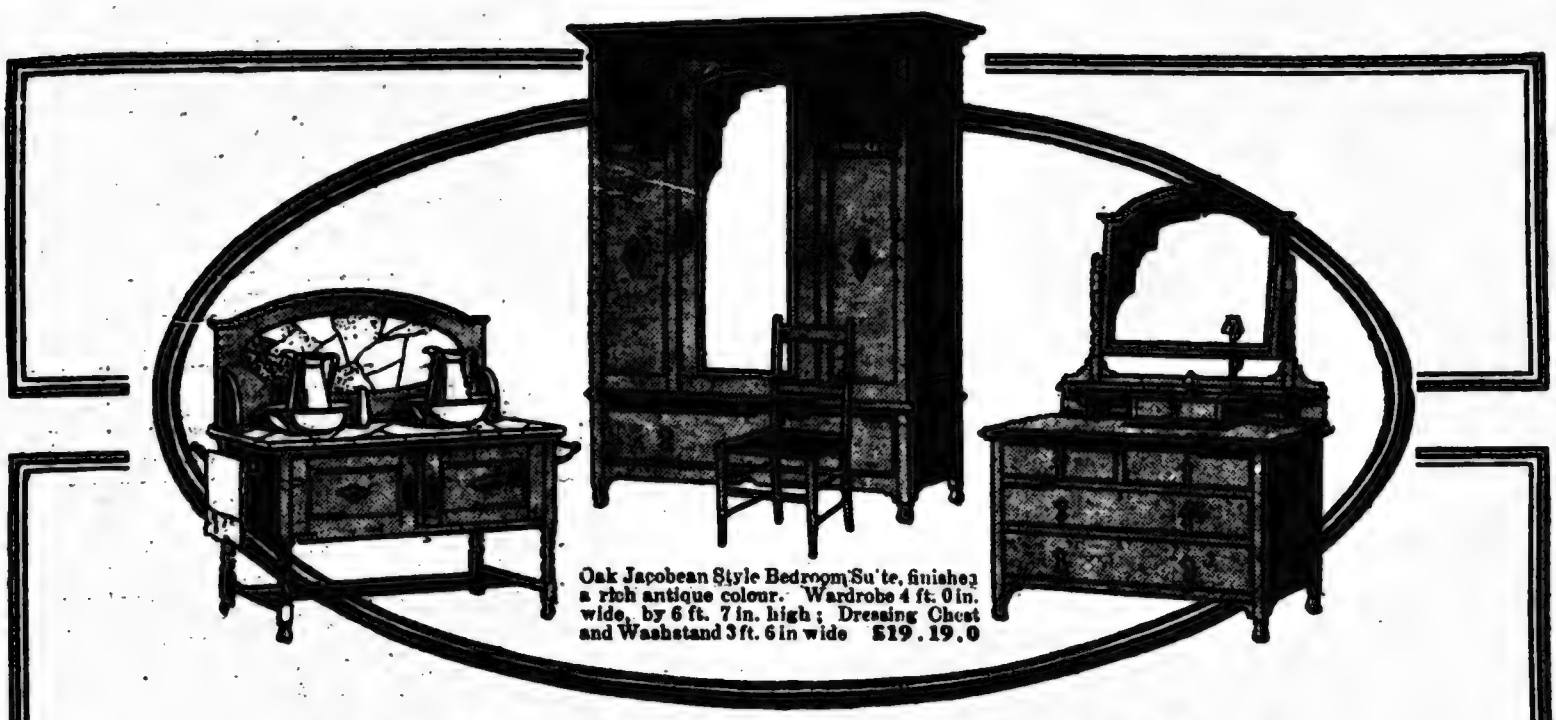
Confederation Life Association.—A. L. (Park).—This Canadian office, established in 1871, is making progress, and occupies a position of considerable importance in the insurance world. The annual income is at the rate of £600,000, and the funds stand at the satisfactory figure of £3,400,000. You will be quite safe in taking out the £1,000 Endowment policy you require. At the age of 40 the annual premium rate is £52 5s., the sum assured, with profits, being payable at the expiration of twenty years or previous death.

City Life Assurance Co.—Boss.—The change in name from the British Homes in no way affected its position or stability. The Company enjoyed an uninterrupted career of success until a few years ago, when it abandoned the profitable source of income derived from Bond Investment Certificates. The Company is now working on purely Life Assurance lines, and is likely soon to make headway again. The last quinquennium revealed a satisfactory surplus after discharging all liabilities, and another quinquennial report is due in the early months of the present year. Meanwhile, you should continue your membership.——Curious.—(1) The last valuation discloses a sound financial position, the invested funds affording ample security to policy holders. The third quinquennium closed as at 31st December, 1912, and the result will be made known a few months hence. (2) An interim reversionary bonus at the rate of £1 per cent. is allowed in respect of all Participating Policies, Whole Life and Endowment. (3) Having abandoned Bond Investment contracts, which formerly provided a large part of the income, the management are now concentrating on the development of purely Life Assurance business. (4) In our opinion, the Company is likely to come well to the front within the next few years, the policies offered being framed on up-to-date lines and securing the policy-holders—especially in the Ideal class—equitable conditions in the event of the assurance being discontinued.——Shylock.—See foregoing answer.

Prudential Assurance Company.—J. B.—It is most difficult to prove misrepresentation, and we can only suggest that you should claim free policies in lieu of those you hold. They would only be for small amounts, but that would be better than losing all you have paid.——W. T. B. (Taunton).—The Company cannot be compelled to pay the full claim to anyone but the father.——C. J. B. (London).—We have carefully compared the Company's offer to you with their Official Table, and the figures given are in accordance therewith.——T. M. (London).—The policies appear to be quite in order.

(A number of replies are held over).

DON'T fail to enter our NEW Football competition. Season closing.



Oak Jacobean Style Bedroom Suite, finished a rich antique colour. Wardrobe 4 ft. 0 in. wide, by 6 ft. 7 in. high; Dressing Chest and Washstand 3 ft. 6 in wide £19.19.0

A Striking Display
of Furniture

is now on view at the spacious showrooms of the Midland Furnishing Company in Southampton Row, where, in addition to a remarkable collection of handsomely designed new season's models, a complete range of perfectly equipped modern flats is open for inspection. A visit to the Company's Showrooms will demonstrate how justly they claim the title of **London's Leading Furnishers,** and how effectively they have solved the problem of furnishing on economical, substantial and artistic lines.

Easy Chair, with loose Cushion, covered in any colour Cretonne 3 ft. high, 3 ft. 1 in. wide, 21½ in. deep.

£2 . 10 . 0

TERMS.

Worth.		Per Month.
£10	...	£0 6 0
£20	...	0 11 0
£30	...	0 17 0
£40	...	1 5 0
£50	...	1 8 0
£100	...	2 5 0
£200	...	4 10 0

Larger amounts pro rata.

Railway Fares Paid.

Country Customers' fares to town paid on all orders of £20 and over. Country orders packed and delivered free.

Second-hand Department.

We have in this department alone a stock valued at considerably over £10,000. A special catalogue is issued weekly which we shall be pleased to forward post free on application.

Handsome Reproduction of Jacobean Oak Sideboard, finished a rich antique brown, 5 ft. 0 in. wide, 6 ft. 6 in. high.

£14 . 14 . 0

The huge stock includes every article required for the complete furnishing of the home, even to Plate, Linen, etc.

Every article shown in the Company's advertisements is in stock at the Showrooms.

1913 Catalogue.

Our elaborate complete Furnishing Guide, containing hundreds of illustrations and many coloured plates, is now ready. A copy will be sent free on request.

10% discount for cash.

Midland

Furnishing Company, Ltd.

15 to 23 SOUTHAMPTON ROW, HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.

Hours—9 till 8. Sats.—9 till 1.

No charge for credit.

A

Oil Within the Empire.

An Imperial

A £1 SHARE THAT

"We may look forward to an African Petroleum Trade with the world. Great volumes of Oil ooze from the earth in many places, and this wondrous country is just as likely to fill the pockets of its exploiters with millions of money got from Oil as from any other undeveloped product," says a recent Cape Government publication.

The occurrence of Petroleum in many parts of South Africa is an established act, but no systematic or scientific attempt has yet been made to prove its existence fn payable quantities.

THE CONSOLIDATED OIL FIELDS OF SOUTH AFRICA, LTD.,

has recently been formed with a capital of £250,000 divided into shares of £1 each, for the purpose of seriously exploiting, for the first time, these known Oil regions.

The Company has provided for a working capital of £50,000, and has acquired exclusive rights for working **Oil and all other Minerals,** for a period of ten years, over 150 square miles in the Ceres district, Cape Province – together with the option of acquiring the freehold of the properties at any time during that period.

Eminent Oil experts have certified to the petroliferous character of the ground.

Mr. Wm. W. Van Ness, for instance, says : "All these farms showed marked indications of the existence of Petroleum. On none did I find any indication of the strata being disturbed by the intrusive action of any igneous rock. Contraction has caused a folding of the strata from West to East, forming a series of synclines and anticlines, the troughs and ridges of which trend North and South. On farm Wagonsboom River, the lay of the strata is favourable to the accumulation of Oil in large quantities. The formation is almost identical with the great Oil-producing fields of Alleghany, McKean, Warren and Venango Counties, Pennsylvania. I have no hesitation in recommending you to sink a well on farm Wagonsboom River. A pipe line could be constructed, over a natural gradient, to reach Cape Town from this farm within 100 miles."

Mr. Frank L. Chapman says : "The synclinal and anticlinal formation is very marked and regular, and nowhere did I find the slightest sign of any intrusive basaltic dykes or sheets, or the evidence of any igneous or eruptive action having taken place. The presence of the 'Rainbow Flake' so persistently and over such a large area, is an all-sufficient reason for putting down a well in this locality. I consider the natural gas proof positive of the existence of Petroleum below, this being undoubtedly Petroleum gas, and not mere marsh gas. The formation of the country corresponds to that of the Oil regions of Pennsylvania and Ohio. Were this ground, as it now is, with merely the indications to go upon, in the States, it would be split up into hundreds of lots, and would realise from £80 to £100 per acre, going to £500 per acre as soon as the first barrel of Oil had been produced."

Mr. Moris Mencher states : "I am convinced, after my examination of the country, that Oil exists in large quantities in the district of Ceres."

Mr. J. E. Mills-Davies, referring to the iridescent films seen in the district, states that he investigated the question fully, with the result that he was satisfied that "their origin from hydrocarbon gaseous or oily compounds derived from Petroleum is a matter that cannot be doubted."

Mr. W. Gasson, in concluding a "Report on Samples of Water and Deposit from Ceres District with regard to their bearing Petroleum or indications," says :—"The results of this examination clearly indicate that these samples are from Petroleum springs."

South Africa's New Industry.

Enterprise.

MAY BE WORTH £200.

Mr. H. G. Hubbard states: "I collected some of the iridescent film and tested it. From the results given I unhesitatingly pronounce this film to be the result of condensation of the lighter bodies contained in the Petroleum, which escape in the form of gas. I am perfectly certain that these rainbow-coloured films are produced by Petroleum and nothing else."

"The Guide to South and East Africa," issued by the Union Castle Mail Steamship Company, Limited, says:—"The chain of hill-encircled plains near and to the north of Ceres undoubtedly contain deposits of the mineral (Petroleum) in question. It is only found in payable quantities in places where the later deposits of rock have remained practically undisturbed by the intrusion of igneous matter, conditions which are fulfilled in this locality."

These remarks refer to the identical locality in which the Company's lands are situated.

The operations of the Company will not be confined to the Ceres district, and the acquisition of certain valuable Oil Shale properties in the Transvaal is being considered.

A very high authority, in London, states, concerning a sample of this shale—"Destructive distillation yielded a quantity of crude oil of a light brown colour. The amount worked out to 62½ gallons per ton of Shale, and from the appearance of the oil, I judge it to be rich in paraffin wax. The sample is the most promising of any I have recently examined."

Mr. J. E. Mills-Davies, A.I.M.M., of Johannesburg, who is one of the most highly esteemed Mining authorities in South Africa, and perhaps the leading authority there on the geology of Oil, has undertaken the responsibility of advising the Company professionally, and is now on the Company's properties in the Ceres district, locating boring sites.

As soon as Mr. Mills-Davies' Report is to hand, drilling operations will be commenced.

The Company is a parent undertaking, and beyond sinking test wells from time to time on various portions of the properties, it will not embark upon commercial trading. Its policy will be to dispose of Oil rights over given areas to subsidiary Companies, retaining a substantial interest in them, and reserving to Shareholders in the Company a preferential right to allotment of shares in such subsidiary Companies.

The potentialities of the Company are enormous. According to a leading American authority, its £1 shares may at any moment attain the value of £200 from its Oil rights alone. Its other mineral rights are also, undoubtedly, of great value.

It will be seen that the Consolidated Oil Fields of South Africa, Limited, is embarking upon an enterprise of an altogether exceptional character, and that it may easily become one of the richest corporations in the world.

Full particulars of the Company may be obtained by dropping a Postcard to the

SOUTH AFRICAN PETROLEUM EXPLORATION SYNDICATE, LIMITED,
80, COLEMAN STREET, LONDON, E.C.

BULLETS.

SIMPLEST—BEST JUDGED—MOST PRIZES.

"Bullets" is the simplest and best judged of all competitions, with most prizes. Once again we offer **£400 FOR THE BEST BULLET RECEIVED.**

FIRST PRIZE - - £400

PRIZES VALUE £1,720

SECOND PRIZE - - - - £50
THIRD PRIZE - - - - £25
Ten Prizes of £2 10s. each.
A Large Number of £1 and 10s. Prizes,
200 Prizes of 7/6
AND
5,000 OTHER VALUABLE PRIZES.

PRIZES VALUE £1,720

Bullets can only be constructed from any of these 40 Examples:—

MARY BULL
LOVE IS BLIND
GREAT PLEASURE
MODERN DRESS
DETAINED AT OFFICE
BULLION
LOOKING GLASS
A WOMAN'S NO.
FOREIGN AIRSHIPS
HER CHAPERON
OPEN TO ALL
UNSOLVED MYSTERY
SHORT COMMONS
PLEASE SEND ME
THE LATEST CRAZE
NOT EASY
VERY RISKY
EASTER EGG
HOT CROSS BUN
RING OFF
HEATED ARGUMENT
FLAT SEASON
VERY FLIGHTY
FALSE ECONOMY
IN A MINUTE
SO SIMPLE
MISSING
FEMALE FRANCHISE
TO-DAY
HIGH LIFE
VERY SHY
WITHOUT AN EQUAL
BADLY COOKED
AT REST
SPEED LIMIT
PAID MEMBERS
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN
VERY SCARCE
REGRETTED
GOOD FIGURE

☞ **Please note that in consequence of the Easter Holidays the closing date of this competition has been extended to Thursday, March 27th.**

IMPORTANT.

EVERY BULLETS COUPON RECEIVED IS SLOWLY AND CAREFULLY READ BY OUR SPECIAL STAFF OF ADJUDICATORS. AFTER WHICH ALL THE COUPONS ARE READ A SECOND TIME WITH THE SAME TROUBLE AND CARE.

HOW TO MAKE BULLETS.

First choose any of our forty examples. Then give two words or three words having some bearing on the example chosen. The FIRST and LAST word selected MUST begin with ANY OF THE LETTERS in the example chosen. If three words are selected any word can be used as the middle word.

For instance, if you take the example, "IN A MINUTE," and take the letters "I" and "U," using the word "longer" as the middle word, you can make the Bullet, "INDICATES LONGER USUALLY," or from the example, "MODERN DRESS," the Bullet, "MOST EXTRAVAGANT" can be formed. Again, if you take the example, "BULLION," using the letter "O" as initial for both the first and last word, you can form the Bullet, "OUR COMPETITIONS OFFERS."

Competitors who have already won any prizes, large or small, in this competition are in no way debarred from winning again.

Competitors can send in two BULLETS on one coupon for sixpence, but if both coupons are used a postal order for one shilling must be sent.

The ink will not run if the coupon is slightly warmed before being used.

Closing date, Thursday, March 27th.

Example _____
Bullet _____

Example _____
Bullet _____

(25) P.O. No. _____

I agree to enter this competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page, and agree to accept the published decision as final and legally binding.

Signed _____
Address _____

A Sixpenny P.O. Must Accompany this Coupon.

Not more than three words may be used to construct a Bullet.

This week's Bullets Coupons will also be found in "MARY BULL," dated March 29th.

Closing date, Thursday, March 27th.

Example _____
Bullet _____

Example _____
Bullet _____

(25) P.O. No. _____

I agree to enter this competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page, and agree to accept the published decision as final and legally binding

Signed _____
Address _____

A Sixpenny P.O. Must Accompany this Coupon.

If Both Coupons Are Used a Postal Order for 1/- Must Be Sent.

ENVELOPES SHOULD BE MARKED "BULLETS NO. 25," "JOHN BULL," LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.

Write "COMPETITION" on top left hand corner of Envelope

"BULLETS" RULES (*which must be strictly adhered to*).

1. The First Prize will be awarded for what, in the opinion of the editor, assisted by a competent staff of adjudicators, is the best Bullet received, and the other prizes in order of merit. The right to divide a prize or prizes among two or more competitors is reserved.
2. Bullets must be plainly written on one of the coupons on this page, and only two attempts may be written on each coupon.
3. Both coupons may be used, but each coupon must be accompanied by a postal order for 6d. made payable to JOHN BULL and crossed _____ & Co. Competitors must write their names and addresses, and the date of sending the order on the back of the postal order, the number of which must be duly noted on each coupon submitted. Competitors sending more than one coupon may enclose one postal order for the full amount covering the number of their coupons. Stamps will not be accepted.
4. Coupons must not be cut or defaced in any manner, or have portions of another coupon pasted upon them.
5. Entries must reach us not later than the first post on the morning of Thursday, March 27th.
6. The Editor undertakes that every Bullet reaching him shall receive careful consideration by a competent staff; but the Editor will not hold himself responsible for coupons lost or mislaid.
7. No correspondence can be entered into concerning this competition.
8. The Editor's decision on all matters concerning this competition must be accepted as final and legally binding in all respects, and acceptance of this rule is an express condition of entry.

RESULT OF TWENTY-SECOND BULLETS COMPETITION.

FIRST PRIZE OF £400:—

Mr. ROBERT BOCKBURN,
Northern School, Falkirk, Scotland.

Example:—ARson.
Bullet:—REMEDY SLUMLAND REQUIRES.

SECOND PRIZE OF £50:—

Mr. ROBERT WILSON,
10, Vincent Street, St. Helens, Lancs.

Example:—MILITANT SUFFRAGETTES.
Bullet:—STAUNCHEST FRIEND, REPORTER.

THIRD PRIZE OF £25

Mr. W. J. GREENHAM,
1, Richmond Rd., Littleham, Exmouth, Devonshire.

Example:—YOUNG LADIES.
Bullet:—ATTRACT TO EXACT.

TEN Prizes of £2 10s. are awarded as follows:

Mr. C. ANDREWS, 6, Park Road, East Finchley, N. (BIG REDUCTION—CHILDREN'S AGES TRAVELLING); MAY HOWDEN, 62, Montpelier Park, Edinburgh (LAST CHANCE—SUFFRAGETTES HAVE LOST); Mr. H. HOPEWELL, 12, Pullman Road, Sneinton, Nottingham (MOST DARING—SCHOOLMASTER'S CARICATURE, SIGNED); Mr. LAMONT, 45, West Holmes Gardens, Musselburgh, N.B. (BIG REDUCTION—"UNCLE'S" ESTIMATE); Mr. F. J. IRELAND, Staff G.P.O., London, E.C. (LAST CHANCE—CADDIE SUGGESTS THROWING); Mr. W. C. SMITH, 92, Langside Avenue, Glasgow (YOUNG LADIES—NECKS NEARING ANKLES); Mr. B. H. HESLOP, 19, Finkle Street, Stockton-on-Tees (LITTLE MARY—ALL HOLIDAYS RESENTS); Mr. J. BRITCHER, 19, Granville Road, South Town, Great Yarmouth (MOST FOOLISH—TO LOOK SO); Mr. B. DOUGLAS DICKIE 2, Rosewood Terrace, West Park Road, Dundee (MAKES ME WILD—AN EXPECTORATING AVIATOR); Mr. H. E. HOLMES, 13, Mountfield Road, Tunbridge Wells (OUR COMPETITIONS—CRITICS NOW COMPETITORS).

10 PRIZE WINNERS of £1 EACH.

BROWNHILL, W., 12, Temple Street, Liverpool.
CHATFIELD, Mrs. C., Richmond Terrace, Seaford, Sussex.
CLAXTON, FLORENCE, 6, Tower Street King's Lynn, Norfolk.
COX, Mrs J., Hatfield Farm, Stert, near Devizes, Wilts.
CRAMER, A., 5 Granville Road, Lewisham, S.E.
HUNT, M. W., Leeson Road, Ventnor, I. of W.
INNES, E., 30, Empress Road, Derby.
LYSTER, C. G., 3, Molyneux Drive, New Brighton, Ches.
SUCH, E. J., 7, Datchet Road, Windsor.
WILTON, S., 6, Tolson Street, Dewsbury.

20 PRIZE WINNERS of 10s. EACH.

BELL, A., 33, Caird Drive, Partick, Glasgow.
CAPELL, A., 121, Brighton Road, South Croydon.
COLEMAN, SMYTHE, care of No. 1 Dept. Singers Manufacturing Co., Clydebank, N.B.
COLLINS, H., 3, Lina Terrace, Woodford Green, N.E.
CREIGHTON, A., 30, Chimes Avenue, Palmers Green, N.
DAVIDSON, S. N., 172, Iverson Road, W. Hampstead, N.W.
DAVIES, R. G., 19, Corporation Road, Newport, Mon.
DONALD, N., 4, Okerdale Road, S. Ealing, W.
DRURY, R. A., Malpas Cottage, Edison Road, Crouch End, N.
HAGON, A., 10, North Villas, Camden Square, N.W.
JONES, G., 8, Coity Road, Bridgend, Glam.
LAWSON, T. W., 7, Gnoll Avenue, Neath, Glam.
McGOWAN, F. S., 8, Moreton Terrace, Pimlico, S.W.
MORGAN, J. D., 85, High Street, Bideford, Devon.
NEAVE, R., Authorities Yard, Wolsey Street, Ipswich.
START, GORDON, care of Army and Navy Stores, Union Street Plymouth.
STUART, W. P., 34, Kingsley Road, Bedford.
WARD, F., Birchamp Cottage, Whitecliff, Coleford, Glos.
WHITE, F. W., 35, The Connery, Hucknall, Notts.
WILLIAMS, W. G., Ballamona, Beechley Road, Wrexham.

LIST OF 200 PRIZE WINNERS OF 7s. 6d. EACH. "BULLETS" COMPETITION NO. 22.

A Selection from the List of 5,000 winners of valuable Prizes can be seen in "Mary Bull," dated April 5th.

Abbott, V. H., 4, Holywell-lane, Shoreditch, E.C.
Adams, Miss L. E., "Leyfield," Boundary-road, Woburn Green.
Alexander, Miss E., 16, Falconar-st., Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Allin, Nellie, 96, New-rd., Uttoxeter, Staffs.
Amey, M. G., "Suffolk House," Ipswich, Suffolk.
Anderson, R. G., Dr. Bell's School, Leith.
Annetts, Miss D., Upper Broadmoor, Crowthorne, Berks.
Argent, A. C., "Evelyn House," Hornminster, Hornchurch, Essex.
Bailey, A., 65, High-st., Worcester.
Baldwin, J., 40, Keswick-rd., Blackpool.
Barnett, R. H., 179, Queen's Park-rd., Brighton.
Bassett-Wood, G., 137, Earl's-rd., Southampton, Hants.
Bateman, T. A., Waunfawr School, Crosskeys, Monmouthshire.
Bigg, Mrs. A. A., 10, Kinfauns-rd., Goodmayes, Essex.
Bolton, R., 21, Brookfield-rd., Crumpsall, Manchester.
Booth, W., 5, Hall Edge-lane, Eccles, Manchester.
Bradley, J., 11, Loveday-rd., Ealing.
Braddell, Miss G., 2, Dunstall-rd., Barton-under-Needwood, Staffs.
Bridge, V., M.C.C. Teacher, Wealdstone Board School, "Abberley," Headstone Drive, Wealdstone, Harrow.
Broadhead, H., 37, Ellerton-rd., Pitsmoor, Sheffield.
Brown, J., Conductor, 32, Masbro-rd., Hammersmith, W.
Brown, W. G., Ellengrove Laundry, Maryport, Cumberland.
Brown, A. N., 2, Ashmore-st., Sunderland.
Brown, J. R., 1, Royal Park-mount, Hyde Park, Leeds.
Brown, W. C., "Guild Cottage," West-st., Epsom, Surrey.
Bruce, Miss J., Garden Tea-Room, Dunkeld.
Button, L. W., "Breckenbrough Hall," Thirsk, Yorks.
Byins, D., 124, High-st., Merton, Wimbledon, S.W.
Chamberlin, R. H., C.C. Sch., Kirton Holme, nr. Boston, Linca.
Chambers, M., 34, Harlow Moor-drive, Harrogate.
Chapman, W. G., 140, Hampton-rd., Southport.
Choate, Miss W., 65, Ondine-rd. East Dulwich, S.E.
Clarke, Miss E., Templepatrick Co. Antrim, Ulster.
Clayton, H., 33, Cheylesmore, Coventry.
Collins, Stella A., 43, Lapwing-lane, West Didsbury, Manchester.
Compton, C., 7, Molesworth-st., Hove, Sussex.
Cook, Mrs. E. A., 33, Elwood-st., Highbury, N.
Cox, Miss G., "Hazelwood," Arborfield Cross, nr. Reading, Berks.
Cowling, F., Clay Cross, Chesterfield.
Cox, G. A., 52, Nelson's Row, High-st., Clapham, S.W.
Crofts, Dorothy G., 6, Exchange, London-rd., Thornton Heath.
Crump, E., 13, Ardleigh-rd., Kingsland, N.
Crump, H., 23, Union-st., Ryde, I. of W.
Davey, E., 18, Hillaries-rd., Gravelly Hill, Birmingham.
Davidson, W. J., 2, Cleveland-ter., North Shields.
Davidson, E., c/o Lawrie, 70, Marchmont-cres., Edinburgh.
Davies, H. B., 19, Thorpe-st., Old Trafford, nr. Manchester.
Dawson, T. M., 36, Dryden-st., N'gham.
Drever, Mrs. O., 249, Broad-st., Cowdenbeath, Fifeshire.
Eadie, Mrs. U. S., 22, Eston-st., C.-on-M., Manchester.
Evans, W. D. R., "London House," Trodyrhiw, Merthyr Tydfil.
Everitt, L. S., 23, Happy Land West, St. Johns, Worcester.
Fairholme, J., 92, Cromwell-rd., Grays, Essex.
Farrar, H. R., "Windlesham House," Brighton, Sussex
Farrell, H., 92, Blenheim-cres., Notting Hill, W.
Fielden, F., 575, Halliwell-rd., Bolton.
Firth, J., 55, Lillands-lane, Brighouse, Yorks.
Fletcher, J., Glenburn Chase Estate, King's Lynn.
Freeman, B., 28, Brixton-rd., S.W.
Fyfe, T., 41, Raeburn-pl., Edinburgh.
Gale, F. S., "Bitterne House," West Hill-rd., Bournemouth
Gibbons, G. E., 38, Tollemache-st., New Brighton, Cheshire.
Ginns, J. C., 52, Sneinton Hermitage, Nottingham.
Glanfield, F. W., 112, Kingswood-rd., Goodmayes, Essex.
Godfrey, E., 41, Rectory-rd., Salisbury, Wilts.
Goldby, Miss V. M., 33, Wren-st., Coventry.
Grainger, L., 154, Dudley Port, Tipton, S. Staffs.
Gransden, J., 189, Park-rd., Sittingbourne, Kent.
Greaves, J. W., 81, Brunswick-rd., Sheffield.
Green, J. J., 531, Manchester-rd., Sheffield.
Green, J., 30, Milson-rd., Kensington, W.
Greenslade, F. J., "Spillmans Villa," Bath-rd., Stroud, Glos.
Hall, Miss A. G., 125, Rosebery-sq., Rosebery-av., E.C.
Hanson, D., Upper-rd., Batley Carr, Dewsbury.
Harding, G., 114, Beecham-rd., Reading.
Harding, G., 30, Portsmouth-rd., Guildford.
Harman, Mrs. M. A., 13, Maxwell-rd., East Southsea, Portsmouth, Hants.
Harris, Mrs. G. Richmond-pl., Abergavenny, Mon.
Hart, M., 92b, Hackford-rd., Brixton.
Hayes, J., 2, Park Villas, Bierton-rd., Aylesbury, Bucks.
Hawes, G. H., Pioneer-av., Desborough.
Heard, A. V., 12, County-st., Totterdown, Bristol.
Heath, T. C., 25, Sherrat-st., Skelmersdale, Lancs.
Hewett, Miss, 13, Onslow-rd., Sharnpton.
Hewitt, D. J., 7, Hall-ter., Dunvant, nr. Swansea.
Horne, F., 38, Wood-st., Woolwich, S.E.
Jackson, T., 12, Tanfield-rd., Birkby, Huddersfield.
Jackson, W. W., 12, Bond-st., Stalybridge, Cheshire.
Jarvis, H., 260, Stanhope-rd., South Shields, Durham.
Jess, W., The Creamery, Dunragit, N.B.
Jewkes, J. T., 92, Wellington-rd., Dudley.
Jones, J., 59, Church-lane, Normanton, Yorks.
Kitchen, F., "Stockfield Grange," Scholes, Leeds.
Langton, Mrs J., 38, Hickman-st., Gainsboro', Lincs.
Laxton, B., "Fir Tree Villa," 1, Dixon's-green, Dudley.
Leech, W., 245, St. Albans-rd., Watford, Herts.
Levander, H. J., 58, Pall Mall, Manchester.
Lewis, Mrs. H., 4, Holgate-ter., York.
Luck, H. E., "Barossa," Northgate, Chichester.
Maguire, W., 12, Coombe-st., Coventry.
Mahon, L., "Moss Bank," St. Helens, Lancs.
Manhire, E. "Treswethian," Camborne, Cornwall.
Manners, H. C., 109, Redland-rd., Bristol
Manning, J., 2, Onslow-rd., Fairfield, Liverpool.
Marshall, L., "Tanyard," Cranbrook, Kent.
Mason, Miss K., c/o Grindlay and Co., 54, Parliament-st., Westminster, S.W.
Mackey, W. L. L., 46, Victoria-st., Wolverton, Bucks.
McIldowie, W., 26, Corn Market, Belfast.
McLaren, D., 35, Arabin-rd., Brockley, S.E.
Merrick, E., 18, Fishpool-st., St. Albans, Herts.
Messam, C., High-st., Wargrave, Berks.
Middleton, Mrs., 95, Cathedral-pl., off John Knox-st., Glasgow.
Millar, T. W., 12, Millbrook-ter., Navan, Meath, Ireland.
Moir, G., 12, Muriel-st., Redcar, Yorks.
Montgomery, C. R., 22, Victoria-st., B'tol.
Moretti, L., 9, Crowland-rd., South Tottenham, N.
Moses, E., 41, Lee-st., Holderness-rd., Hull.
Moss, G. E., 25, Fisher-rd., Meersbrook, Sheffield.
Mossman, H. W., 121, Hughenden-rd., Hastings.
Norrish, W., "Glenwood," Torton, Hartlebury, nr. Kidderminster.
Orson, J. R., Mistley, Manningtree, Essex.
Orton, Miss E., 4, Seymour-pl., Edgware-rd., W.
Ostler, F., "Oswestry House," 6, Nelson-rd. Central, Gt. Yarmouth.
Page, H. S., 13, Wilson Patten-st., Warrington.
Page, A. C., 42, Regent-st., Derby.
Parley, Mrs. M. J., Tivetshall, Norwich.
Parnell, A. E., 114, Mount Gould-rd., Plymouth.
Parr, E. A., Palace-st., Newmarket.
Paul, Cpl. T., H.M.S. Lancaster, Devonport, c/o G.P.O.
Pemberton, G. A., 27, Lytton-rd., Bournemouth.
Perry, W. H., "Albany," Benfleet-rd., Hadleigh, Rayleigh.
Polden, E. M., "Lingmoor," 27, Dear Park-rd., Bournemouth.
Pond, V. W., 99, King's-av., Watford, Herts.
Potter, H. E., "The Chantry," Norwich.
Proctor, P., 158, Ella-st., Hull.
Quigley, E., 1, Upper Oxford-st., Brighouse, Yorks.
Ramsden, H., "Stanholme," Haxey, Doncaster.
Ratcliffe, J., 93, Crawford-av., Smithdown-rd., Liverpool.
Read, F., "High House," St. Margaret's-rd., Lowestoft, Suffolk.
Rising, T. C., 147, London-rd, S. Lowestoft.
Roberts, H., 102, Richmond-rd., Earl's Court, S.W.
Roberts, E. O., Chemist, 2, Dolphin-ter., Fowey.
Robertson, Miss Nean, "Oakhurst," Woodstock-rd., Golders Green, N.W.
Robinson, S. C., "Aylesbury," Bevan's-lane, West Derby, Liverpool.
Rowlands, E. S., 78, Clarendon-rd., Whalley Range, Manchester.
Rushton, E. G., 77, Church-rd., Netherton, Dudley.
Russell, G., Chesswood-rd., Worthing.
Rutherford, S., 23, Perth-rd., Dundee.
Rylance, Miss A. M., 2, Clarendon-st., Birkenhead.
Sabine, E. F., Cambrian Colliery, Ystalyfera, Glam.
Scotland, W. J. L., Institute-pl., Greenock, N.B.
Shaw, Mrs., 2, Beaverwood-rd., Chislehurst.
Smallwood, Mrs. M. C., 239, Robert-ter., Heaton, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Smith, S., 13, Englefield-rd., Dalston, N.
Smith, A., 34, Brecknock-rd., Camden-rd., N.W.
Smith, J., Private, 56th Co. A.S.C., Bulford Camp, Salisbury.
Smith, R., 2, Norton-pl., Edinburgh.
Smith, E., 66, Craster-rd, Elm Park, Brixton-hill, S.W.
Smith, Lance-Cpl. A. H., R.E. Office, South Raglan Barracks, Devonport.
Snell, W. A., Velmead-rd, Fleet, Hants.
Snell, K., 33-4, Glengall-rd., Kilburn, N.W.
Sparling, F. A., 3, Annadel-park, Fair View, Dublin.
Spence, A. E., 374, Newhall-lane, Preston, Lancs.
Spencer, E. E., 33, Lordship-rd., Church-st., Stoke Newington, N.
Stabler, A. W., Shincliffe, nr. Durham.
Steggles, R. J., 47, Chippenham-rd., London, W.
Stepney, G., Templeogue, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Struthers, Mrs. A., 2, Alfriston-rd., West Side, Clapham Common, S.W.
Talbot, C., 143, Harvist-rd., Kensal Rise, N.W.
Tarrant, G., Cameron's, Inverness, N.B.
Thorne, R., 24, Union-rd., Cambridge.
Tompson, W. J., 5, Rosleston-rd., Stapenhill, Burton-on-Trent.
Trafford, R. de, 25, Mentone-mansions, West Brompton, S.W.
Trigg, Miss F., Grosvenor-pl., Marine-parade, Southend-on-Sea.
Turner, C. J., 5, Park-st., Stoke, Devport.
Turner, Mrs. L., 17, Colville-rd., Wisbech.
Vaughan, W., "Glascwm Court," Builth, Wells, Wales.
Ventris, Mrs. E., "Oakville," Whiteknights-rd., Reading.
Wakelam, D., 14, Bullock-st., Spon-lane, West Bromwich.
Walke, S. J. R., First Writer R.N., H.M.S. Irresistible, c/o G.P.O. London.
Warren, A. T., 1, Rowden-street, Peverell, Plymouth.
Waters, W. B., 13, Rose-street, Thurso, N.B.
Watson, G. W., Wymaswold, Loughboro'.
Weaver, J. T., 1, Watermoor-villas, Cirencester, Glos.
Webb, J., 6, Brighton House, Camberwell Green, S.E.
Weller, W., 49a, Princess May-rd., Stoke Newington, N.
Wellsted, W. H. T., Exchange-st., Retford, Notts.
West, M., 35, Frankfurt-rd., Herne Hill, S.E.
White, A., 57, Fontarabia-rd., Clapham Common, S.W.
Wilkins, A., "Manchester House," Combe Down, Bath.
Williamson, Robt., 119, Leith-st., Edinboro.
Wilson, C., "Kenmure," Cornhill-rd., Aberdeen.
Winder, Margaret, 44, Chas-Benington-rd., Liverpool.
Wintle, W., "Grange Farm House," Shropham, Thetford, Norfolk.
Wiseman, W., Highland House, Belsteed-rd., Ipswich.
Witts, W. T., 4, Hollinshead-st., Chorley, Lancs.
Wombrey, R. E., 4, Adrian-rd., Wallsend-on-Tyne.
Woodhouse, R., 23, High-st., Salisbury.
Woods, P., sen., 38, Coborn-st., Bow.
Wright, R. D., 5, Aston-rd., Ealing, W.

Complete List of 5,000 Winners of Valuable Prizes can be seen at the "John Bull" Offices.

Racing Notes.

Prophetic.

At Uttoxeter on Thursday, F. Hunt's selected, GRAYLING IV. or JORROCKS, should win the Staffordshire Steeplechase, and the same trainer's LONDERRY should be good enough for the Osmaston Hurdle.

At Plumpton, the hitherto unlucky SCHOOLMONEY can win the Easter Handicap Hurdle, and KHUDDLAN should be good to back for the Hastings Steeplechase.

There are some splendid meetings promised for Easter Monday, the big races being the Queen's Prize at Kempton and the Lancashire Steeplechase at Manchester. For the Queen's Prize several are more or less fancied. Pretty Bold is sure to run well for Frank Hartigan, but

DALMATIAN

was so unlucky in the Manchester November Handicap, and even with all his bad luck then ran fourth, that he should win. Another winner on the same day at Kempton should be ROCK FLINT, in the Easter Stakes.

At Manchester the big Steeplechase looks at the mercy of

RATHNALLY,

who would incur no penalty for the Grand National.

Lincolnshire news remains quiet, though Long Set is greatly fancied. Cigar has been backed in the right quarter, and Castleton is a genuine candidate, as is Ask Papa, although both have hitherto showed most ability at sprinting distances. Perhaps the best thing to back at the present juncture is LONG SET. Barring accident, the National looks real good for RATHNALLY.

THE "JOHN BULL" DERBY SWEEP.

Once again we must make it clear that we cannot, in any circumstances whatever, either receive remittances or enter into correspondence in connection with this sweepstake. Communications *must* be addressed to Patrick O'Brien, Geneva, Switzerland.

JAMES WEBSTER (late of Middleburg, Holland), who has been established upwards of fifty years, informs us that he is in no way connected with any persons carrying on business abroad, and that his sole address is 6, Clement's Inn, Strand.

We understand that Mr. J. Beresford, of 147, Corporation Street, Birmingham, has been compelled, owing to the remarkable growth of his business, to open additional premises. We have previously commented upon his honourable methods, and we now observe a new rule to the effect that he is prepared to take full responsibility for telegraphic errors—an example which other turf accountants might well follow.

SPORTING REPLIES.

The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith

"JOHN BULL" DERBY SWEEPSTAKE.—A. D. (Lee).—There is nothing in the point you raise as to the difference in the numbers of noughts in the tickets and counterfoils respectively. *All initial noughts must be disregarded*, as they are incidental to the working of the numbering machines. The same thing happens to the numbers on our own covers.——B. C. (Brighton).—The postage for letters to Geneva is 2½d., and for postcards 1d.——J. B. M. (Greenock).—We said *English* charities on the principle that the greater includes the less.——W. F. G. (Handley).—English postal orders crossed "and Co." will do.——EX-LONDON CABBY.—There is nothing to prevent you from applying to Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Geneva, for tickets for this sweepstake. If you secure a copy of JOHN BULL containing a drawn number, you will be eligible to act as a special canvasser of the paper for one week in return for two guineas. Many thanks for your kind wishes.——F. C. L. (Southsea).—We have gladly adopted the suggestion you make.——MRS. J. (Barrow).—We dealt fully with the subject in last week's issue.——G. T. (Brondesbury).—Patrick O'Brien, Geneva, Switzerland, is sufficient address, and remittances may be made by crossed English postal order or cheque.

TOTALISATOR (Lucerne).—A. R. F. (E. Dereham).—Quite bonâ-fide.

T. G. SYNDICATE.—R. McA. (Hove).—The statement of our contemporary to which you refer—namely, that these sweepstakes are run by the Turf Guardian Society, is entirely without foundation. The circulars issued by the Syndicate are most misleading, and we have already directed attention to them.

UNION CLUB (Sion).—G. H. P. (Putney).—We should not recommend you to join this sweepstake.

ALBION BANK (Basle).—FAIR SPORT.—CONSTANT READER.—Have nothing to do with them.

DICK BELL (Lucerne).—NIMROD AND OTHERS.—We have not sufficient knowledge of this firm's sweepstakes to be able to recommend them.

UNIVERSAL TURF SOCIETY (Lucerne)—HALBERD, CRICKET, and OTHERS.—We do not recommend these people's sweeps.

HILTON AND WEST (Rheinfelden).—DOUBTFUL (Normanton).—You have chosen a very proper *nom de plume*—which correctly describes the character of this firm, whose advertisements we at once withdrew from our columns on receipt of certain information.

BOUVERET TURF CLUB.—L. C. R. (Dulwich) enquires as to the amount which this Club paid out in connection with last year's Derby Sweep. We are unable to give the information, but have reason to think that the sum was quite small. F. B. (Cambridge).—We cannot enlighten you as to the meaning of £15,000 "applications." We are quite certain that the phrase is not synonymous with pounds, although even if it were, considering that the amount would have to be divided between the two sweepstakes, and even then would have to be subject to deduction of expenses, etc., the outlook would not be particularly rosy for subscribers.——W. M. (Bromley).—We have already pointed out that there is no guarantee as to prize money in connection with this sweep, and having regard to the specious wording of the circulars we do not advise you to participate.

ROBERT BURRELL (LONDON).—H. C. (Woolwich).—We cannot tell you whether "this is the same man that lives in the Barking Road."

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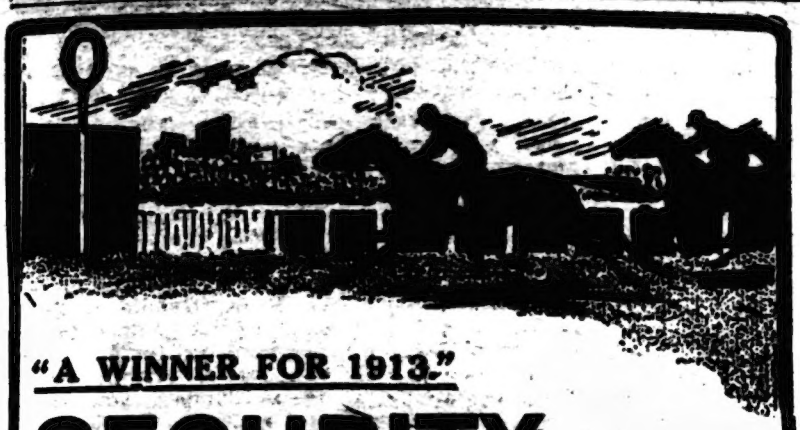
Football Selections from the Principal Papers.

Matches to be played Saturday, March 22nd, 1913.

In view of the enormous interest now taken in the competitions conducted by numerous papers, the following table of selections compiled from the principal football authorities will be found to be an extremely useful guide—

	Matches played on ground of first-named team.	Last Year's Result.	JOHN BULL	Lloyd's Weekly.	London Mail.	Umpire.	Sunday Chronicle.	Weekly Dispatch.	News of the World.	Competitors Guide.
SOUTHERN LEAGUE—2ND LEAGUE—1ST LEAGUE	Blackburn Rovers v. Oldham A. ..	Rovers won 1—0	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Derby County v. Newcastle Un. ..	No Game.	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Away	Home
	Tottenham H. v. Sheffield Un. ..	—	—	Home	—	Home	—	Home	—	Home
	Middlesbrough v. Bolton Wanderers	Middlesbro', won 1—0	Home	Draw	Draw	Away	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Notts County v. Liverpool	Draw, 0—0	Home	Home	Home	Away	Away	Draw	Home	Draw
	Manchester Un. v. Aston Villa ..	Manchester won 3—1	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Draw	Away	Away	Home
	Sheffield Wednesday v. Chelsea ..	No Game	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Everton v. Woolwich A.	Everton won 1—0	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	West Bromwich Albion v. Bradford C.	Draw, 0—0	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Sunderland v. Manchester City	Draw, 1—1	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Barnsley v. Preston N. E.	No Game	Home	Away	Draw	Draw	Draw	Draw	Draw	Draw
	Birmingham v. Notts Forest	Birmingham won 4—2	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Blackpool v. Bristol City	Blackpool won 1—0	Home	Home	Draw	Draw	Home	Home	Away	Draw
	Bradford v. Stockport C.	Bradford won 1—0	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Bury v. Hull City	No Game	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Fulham v. Burnley	Burnley won 4—3	Home	Draw	Home	Away	Away	Away	Away	Draw
	Grimsby Town v. Glossop	Draw, 0—0	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Huddersfield Town v. Lincoln City ..	No Game	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Home
	Leeds City v. Clapton O.	Orient won 2—0	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Wolverhampton v. Leicester Fosse ..	Wolves won 1—0	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Millwall v. Coventry City ..	Draw, 3—3	Draw	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Draw	Home	Draw
	Northampton v. Brighton and Hove ..	Northampton won 1—0	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Draw	Home	Home	Home
	Queen's Park R. v. West Ham Un. ..	Queen's P.R. won 4—1	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Brentford v. Exeter City	Brentford won 3—1	Home	Home	Draw	Away	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Millwall v. Portsmouth	No Game	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home	Draw
	Bristol Rovers v. Swindon T.	Bristol won 3—0	Away	Home	Away	Draw	Draw	Draw	Away	Away
	Southampton v. Crystal Palace ..	Palace won 4—2	Away	Away	Home	Away	Away	Away	Away	Away
	Reading v. Merthyr Town	No Game	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Norwich City v. Watford	Draw, 1—1	Home	Home	Away	Away	Home	Home	Home	Away
	Stoke v. Plymouth A.	Stoke won 2—1	Away	Home	Away	Away	Away	Away	Home	Away

Home signifies first mentioned team to win—Away second mentioned team to win.



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